BULLETIN - Blue set vol. I.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Blue cover set in 3 volumes

I. From October 1964, Vol. I, No. 1,
To January 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 2.

II. From March 1972, Vol. VII, No. 3,
To May, 1980, Vol. XVI, No. 4.

III. From October, 1980, Vol. XVII, No. 1,
To August, 1991, Vol. XXIV, No. 3.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October, 1964, Vol. I, No. 1.

Editorial

After two and a half centuries Weston at last has a historical society, 650 members strong. In this first Bulletin issue, we are moved to remind our readers how important it is for all time that each of us be an active working member.

Think of the history that's buried here — of the stories these old cellar holes and lost forgotten roads can tell! Now, before it's too late, let us all resolve to do all we individually and collectively can to cooperate with the historian, the archivist, and the various research sub-committees in bringing back the facts and artifacts of yesteryear. Not many towns in the country have so much latent history available for re-discovery, restoration, and preservation.

This Society will be what we of today make it. Then indeed will we leave to our children a heritage that is real and inspiring.

Harold G. Travis,
President

Purpose

It is appropriate to print in this Bulletin the primary purpose of the Weston Historical Society as stated in the By-laws:

"To gather, study, preserve, house and make available for use the records, relics and memorabilia relating to the history of the Town of Weston and its people, including current items which may become of historical interest in the future; and to disseminate information, particularly to the inhabitants of Weston in cooperation with its schools and otherwise, intended to promote greater understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions, both past and in the making, of the Town of Weston and its neighboring communities."

This Bulletin will be mailed several times yearly to Weston Historical Society members with the aim of fully informing them of the Society's program and of better acquainting them with the history of this town.

The picture below shows some members of the Bulletin's Information committee at work. From left to right they are: Mrs. Eric Reissner, Mrs. William G. Burt Jr., Mrs. Raymond A. Paynter Jr., and Mrs. H. E. Jones Jr. Mr. Erlund Field and Mr. Henry W. Patterson were unable to be present for the photograph.

The Golden Ball Tavern

At its September 17th meeting, the directors unanimously passed the following motion by Henry W. Patterson, seconded by Mrs. Homer N. Sweet:

"Resolved that: The Board of Directors of Weston Historical Society, Inc. expresses (1) its deep appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gambrill, Jr., for acquiring the Golden Ball Tavern, rich in American and Weston history, unique in the fact that it was owned and occupied for more than two centuries by successive generations of the same family, and (2) its desire to support the movement to restore, preserve, and maintain this important American landmark, to help raise funds for such purposes, and to assist the trustees of the Golden Ball Tavern Trust in various ways including the collection of articles for display therein of historic character and value."

It was further moved and unanimously voted that: "In accordance with the above, the President convey a copy of the above resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Gambrill with the request that they advise us how the members of our Society may assist the Trustees in the above objectives."

It is hoped that all members of the Society will join the directors in thus supporting the preservation of this landmark, so rich in character, significance and

Open House

Every Wednesday is Open House at the Jones House, known as the Josiah Smith Tavern. Visitors are received from 2 to 4 P.M. by hostesses, who are glad to supply information about the objects of historical interest displayed in this building, once a Revolutionary War Period tavern. These Open House afternoons have been held weekly since May 30, 1964. Ladies who wish to serve as hostesses are asked to telephone Mrs. James E. Fraser, TW 4-2872, or Mrs. E. Stanley Hobbs, Jr., 899-5766, who will welcome assistance in this gracious attempt to make Weston's past, and therefore its present, more meaningful.

Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, November 10, preceding Mr. Riley's lecture. Present officers are: Mr. Harold G. Travis, President; Mr. Harold B. Willis Jr., Vice President; Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Second Vice President; Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, Secretary, and Mr. Harry B. Jones, Treasurer.

The directors are: Mr. J. Kenneth Bennett, Mr. John G. Brooks, Mr. Brenton H. Dickson III, Mr. Erlund Field, Mr. Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mr. Henry W. Patterson, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, Mr. Harold G. Travis, Mr. Wilmot Whitney and Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr.

Committee chairmen for the current season are: Mrs. James E. Fraser, curator; Mrs. Edmund U. Ritter, archivist; Mr. Brenton H. Dickson III, historian; Mr. Erlund Field, research; Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr., house; Mrs. Boardman Bump, program; Mrs. E. Paul Floyd, hospitality; Mrs. Eric Reissner, information; Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, liaison; Mr. Wilmot Whitney, membership; and Mr. Leonard Dowse, finance.

Helps for Weston Ancestor Hunters

In Weston's Library are the following valuable volumes, edited by Mary Frances Peirce, indexed by names, subjects, and places, and thoughtfully published by the Town of Weston:

RECORDS OF THE FIRST PRECINCT: 1746-1754; and RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF WESTON 1754-1803, published 1893.

RECORDS OF THE TOWN CLERK 1804-1826, published 1894.

VITAL RECORDS (Births, marriages, and deaths) 1707-1850.
(Gravestones) 1703-1900.
(Church) 1709-1825, published 1901

TAX LISTS 1757-1827, published 1897

Along with other fine and rare old books in Weston's library, is Henry Bond's volume "Genealogies of the Families and Early Settlers of Watertown", second edition comprising 1094 pages, and published in 1860. It is known to genealogists of this area as "Our bible". It is a very rare volume and the genealogical section of the research committee could use one or two copies to great advantage. If you have a copy to lend, please phone Mrs. McKinley H. Warren, TW 3-4476. At nearby Waltham Library are the 16 volumes of "Soldiers and Sailors of the Commonwealth."

tradition. To that end, they have dedicated the current year's program to the fulfillment of the above so that a spirit of devotion to our heritage will continue to characterize the Town of Weston.

The Oldest Historical Society in the U.S.

A major event of the fall, opening the Society's first full season, will be a lecture by Mr. Stephen T. Riley of Weston, on Tuesday, November 10, at 8 P.M. at the Town House. Mr. Riley, a member of our Society, is the Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He will discuss the origin, purpose and collections of that organization.

The Massachusetts Historical Society is the parent of all other such societies in this country, having been founded in 1791, about a decade earlier than the second oldest, the New York Society. With headquarters at 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, it is a privately endowed research organization which specializes in rare books and manuscripts. It is second only to the Library of Congress in the number of important American manuscripts it owns, including the famous Jefferson, Adams and Revere papers. Its printed materials include 300,000 titles in American history, many of which relate to Massachusetts and New England. It owns maps, prints, drawings and portraits, including Copleys and Stuarts. It displays such historical objects as Washington's epaulets and the pen with which Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It welcomes annually some 1,500 visiting scholars, and it would be difficult to find a major work dealing with the history of this area that does not depend in some way upon the resources of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Since its founding 173 years ago, 160 volumes have been published under its aegis.

Mr. Riley, a native of Worcester, studied at Clark University, where he received his doctorate in history. His personal interest is the Revolutionary War period.

Mr. Riley's lecture will include readings from some of the great documents owned by the organization he directs. Though these documents are too valuable to travel, he expects to have some photographic copies for display.

All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

Red Letter Days

Other important events that have been planned for the 1964-65 season include The Charter Anniversary Dinner on Wednesday, February 10, at which Mr. Roland Robbins of Lincoln, archaeologist, will speak, and a Patriots' Day Pageant in April on the Town Green, directed by Dr. Robert J. MacMillan of Weston, which will re-enact events on the Green 190 years ago. Watch for further details about these two occasions.

The Seal

To Mrs. John L. Kronenberg we are indebted for the design of a seal for the Society. This seal, which commemorates the incorporation both of the town and of the Society, appears on the outside of this Bulletin.

It is our hope that many members will avail themselves of these treasures and will want to do research into the history and times of their local ancestors, thus helping our Society materially in its objective of perpetuating the Weston Heritage.

Once Upon a Time

A yellowed newspaper clipping dated March 1, 1870, describes a surprise party for three Weston bachelors which was attended by "a goodly number of marriageable damsels" with "bright eyes and smiling faces."

"Our quiet town," the article reads, "has, like Rip Van Winkle, awakened from a long state of lethargy, and our ancient Burghers are again reminded of the days when they were wont to enjoy the 'merrie dance and song.' "

The three bachelors were Mr. Charles Cutter, Jr., Mr. Samuel Warren and Mr. W. Seaverns, Jr. Mr. Cutter lived at Cutter's Corner and was the great-uncle of three present-day Westonians: Mr. Charles Cutter, Jr., Mrs. James E. Fraser and Mrs. Stewart Chamberlin. Mr. Warren was a relative of Mrs. George W. Cutting and lived in the Newton Street House in which she now lives. Mr. Seaverns was a great-uncle of Mrs. Stephen Colpitts.

The 94-year-old newspaper story continues: "As usual *the Elder bachelor* was the life of the party, and with his basket of 'Hearts and Rounds' called about him a bevy of the fair sex, who with their bright eyes and smiling faces made him regret that he had lived so long without a *helpmeet.*"

This puzzles the editor of this Bulletin, who wonders who was "the Elder bachelor" and what was a basket of "Hearts and Rounds"? Can any one explain?

This party, alas, failed in its objective. Two of the bachelors remained unmarried and one, Mr. Seaverns, took a bride not from Weston but from far away Newton.

Mr. Harold G. Travis	Mrs. Eric Reissner	Mrs. William G. Burt, Jr.
President	Information Chairman	Bulletin Editor
899-4515	TW 3-7039	TW 3-0804

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person
Gift Memberships Are Suggested
Life Memberships ($200) are also available

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
October, 1964

MR. & MRS. EDWARD W. MARSHALL
10 CRESCENT ST.
WESTON, MASS.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

1964-1965

November 10:	Annual Meeting at 8 P.M., Town House Speaker: Mr. Stephen T. Riley
February 10:	Charter Anniversary Dinner Speaker: Mr. Roland W. Robbins
April 19:	Patriots' Day Pageant on the Town Green

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.:
Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1965, Vol. 1, No. 2

Charter Anniversary Dinner, February 10, 1965

On Wednesday, February 10th at 6:45 p.m. the Weston Historical Society will hold its first Charter Anniversary Dinner. Like the Charter Dinner a year ago the festive event will be held in the cafeteria of the Weston High School on Wellesley Street. Mrs. E. Paul Floyd, the Hospitality chairman, and her committee are working hard at plans for a historical decorative theme. Each table will have a hostess, however no seats will be reserved beforehand at any of the tables, and all members are urged to mingle freely. A tear-off-form is provided for reservations.

The featured speaker on the occasion of this charter anniversary dinner will be Mr. Roland Wells Robbins of Lincoln, Massachusetts, consultant on colonial and early American landmarks and their restoration. Known as a "pick and shovel" historian, Mr. Robbins specializes in locating the "lost" sites of early American settlements, pioneer industries and historic landmarks. In the course of his activities Mr. Robbins has unearthed the site of John and Priscilla Alden's first home in Duxbury, Massachusetts; Thomas Jefferson's birthplace; Thoreau's cabin site at Walden Pond; the 1646 Saugus Ironworks; a 17th - 18th century Dutch settlement at Tarrytown, New York; the 1644 John Winthrop Jr. Ironworks; Colonial Military Installations at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, New York, and many other historic sites. His discoveries are the basis for many nationally known restorations.

Mr. Robbins has frequently appeared on the television screen and on lecture platforms, presenting his colorful and entertaining illustrated lectures.

Research Meeting January 17th

GENEALOGICAL SEMINARS ARE PLANNED

Erlund Field, chairman of our Research Committee, announces a meeting in the Jones House at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon on January 17th, for all members interested in taking part in various studies involving the history of the Harrington (Blaney) House, the Hooks & Hastings Organ Factory at Kendal Green, the Jericho area, the ivory tusks allegedly buried on the Paine Estate, the furniture and screen factories on Crescent Street, the Weston Water Works on Warren Avenue, the Sibley Mills at Stoney Brook, etc. Volunteers are needed who are anxious and willing to unearth the facts regarding these relics of yesteryear.

Another activity planned by this committee is a series of seminars on genealogical techniques. Instruction as to how to trace old families, structures, roads, etc. will be given by experts. If you are interested in being trained in this field, send your name to our secretary, Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, 277 North Avenue, Weston 02193 so that you may be notified as to the time and place of such meetings.

A New Genealogical Book

The Society is proud of the latest achievement of one of its most active charter members, Vanetta Hosford (Mrs. McKinley H.) Warren. After 4 years of labor Mrs. Warren has just completed her latest genealogical work, *Adriel Warren of Berwick, Maine: His Forbears and Descendants,* a neatly printed and attractive volume of more than 200 pages. From the landing of James Warren at Kittery, Maine in 1652 to the "newest babies", Mrs. Warren's book is a fascinating story of westward migrations embracing ox teams along the Mohawk, canal boats, wagon trains, the Gold Rush, and Oklahoma Runs. Collaterally, as is true of so many Weston families, "ties that bind" are noted with old Watertown of which Weston was a part through 1712.

In "A Personal Note" at the end of this human and historical book, the author aptly writes: "I feel that I have been to a family reunion. A genealogy is just that, — a friendly get-together on somebody's farm under the apple trees where we eat each other's best cooking and get acquainted . . . Oh, we are all young and hearty without aches and pains at my family reunion". How accurately she has anticipated the reaction of her readers!!

The book is privately printed by the Pinkham Press for members of the Warren family.

Preservation of Landmarks

Periodically, in a town like ours, the question comes up what to do about some ancient structure which no longer suits its original purpose and which would require extensive and costly alterations to make it suitable for some new purpose. On such occasions our sense of the historical should urge us to make every possible effort to prevent the demolition of the ancient structure by disseminating the prospects of this happening among people who might be willing and able to purchase and restore, or move to another site that which is about to make way for the new. When we speak of ancient structures we mean construction which is more than 100 years old. Anyone who hears of the prospects, that such a vintage structure is about to be sold or torn down, should notify our Secretary Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke (TW 3-0950).

A way may be found through such vigilance to save and preserve a building of increasing historical importance.

Once Upon a Time

To those who annually receive Real Estate Tax Notices from the Town of Weston, it may be of interest that in the Archives of the Weston Historical Society there is a framed Tax Notice, issued by the Honorable Harrison Gray, Esq., Treasurer and Receiver-General of His Majesty's said Province, informing the Selectmen or Assessors of the Town or District of WESTON IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX as follows:

"In observance of an Act of the Great and General Court of Assembly of the said Province, begun and held at Concord, on Wednesday the Thirtieth Day of May, 1764, and in the Fourth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, entitled, An Act for apportioning and assessing the Sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds, etc.

These are in His Majesty's Name to Will and Require you forthwith to assess the Sum of

TWO HUNDRED AND ONE POUNDS

set upon your Town, District, Parish, or Place, in Manner following, that is to say, To assess all rateable Polls above the Age of Sixteen Years, within your respective Town, District, Parish or Place, or next adjoining thereto, belonging to no other Town or Place, at Six Shillings and eight Pence per Poll; and proportionably in assessing the additional sum paid out of the Treasury to the Representatives: And the Incomes of all Estates, both Real and Personal, lying within the Limits of your Town, District, Parish, or Place, or next unto the same, not paying elsewhere, in whose Hands, Tenure, Occupation or Possession the same is or shall be found, and also the Incomes or Profits which any Person or Persons (except as in and by said Act is excepted) do or shall receive from any Trade, Faculty, Business or Employment whatsoever; and all Profits which shall or may arise by Money or Commissions of Profit in their Improvement according to their Understanding or Cunning, at Twelve Pence per Pound; and to abate or multiply the same, if need be, so as to make up the Sum set and ordered hereby for each Town, District, Parish, or Place, to pay: And in making the said Assessment you are to estimate Houses and Lands at six Years yearly Rent, whereat the same may be reasonably set or let for in the Place where they lye, Saving all Agreements between Landlord and Tenant, and where no Agreement is, the Landlord to reimburse one half of the Tax set upon such Houses and Lands; and to estimate Negro, Indian and Molatto Servants proportionably, as other Personal Estate, according to your sound Judgment and Discretion; as also to estimate every Ox of four Years old and upwards at Forty Shillings, every Cow or Heifer of three Years old and upwards at Thirty Shillings, and every Horse and Mare of three Years old and upwards at Forty Shillings, and every Swine of one Year old and upwards at eight Shillings, Goats and Sheep of one Year old and upwards at Three Shillings each. The several Creatures above-mentioned to be taxed to their respective Owners or Occupants. And you are likewise required to make a fair List of said Assessment, setting forth in District Columns against each particular Person's Name, how much he or she is assessed at for Polls, and how much for Houses and Lands, and how much for Personal Estate and Income by Trade or Faculty; and if as Guardians or for any Estate in his or her Improvement in Trust, to be distinctly expressed. And the List or Lists so perfected and signed by you, or the major Part of you, to commit to the Collector, Constable or Constables of your Town, District, Parish or Place; and to return a Certificate of the Name or Names of such Collector, Constable or Constables, with the Sum-Total to each of them committed, unto myself some. Time before the last Day of November next. Hereof you may not fail as you will answer your Neglect at the Peril of the Law.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Boston, the fifth Day of July 1764, in the Fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, of Great-Britain, etc. King."

It appears that in common with many other advances the passage of 200 years has resulted in a simplification of the local tax notices in our present-day Town of Weston.

Annual Meeting

The first Annual Meeting of the Society was held November 10, 1964. Brenton H. Dickson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, offered Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, Harry Patterson and Erlund Field as nominees for three-year terms on the Board of Directors. The members present unanimously accepted the Nominating Committee's slate.

Following are the names of the Officers, Directors and Committee-Chairmen for the year 1965:

President	Harold G. Travis
Vice-President	Harold B. Willis Jr.
Second Vice-President	Charles P. Gorely Jr.
Recording Secretary	John G. Brooks
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke
Treasurer	Harry B. Jones

DIRECTORS

J. Kenneth Bennett	Henry W. Patterson
John G. Brooks	Mrs. Homer N. Sweet
Brenton H. Dickson III	Harold G. Travis
Erlund Field	Wilmot Whitney
Grant M. Palmer Jr.	Harold B. Willis Jr.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Archivist: Miss Rebecca McKenna	Information: Mrs. Eric Reissner
Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser	Liaison: Mrs. F. Leslie Ford
Finance: Leonard H. Dowse	Membership: Wilmot Whitney
Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III	Program: Mrs. Boardman Bump
Hospitality: Mrs. E. Paul Floyd	Research: Erlund Field
House: Harold B. Willis Jr.	

Open House

Every Wednesday is Open House at the Jones House, known as the Josiah Smith Tavern. Visitors are received from 2 to 4 P.M. by hostesses, who are glad to supply information about the objects of hostorical interest displayed in this building, once a Revolutionary War Period tavern. These Open House afternoons have been held weekly since May 30, 1964. Ladies who wish to serve as hostesses are asked to telephone Mrs. James E. Fraser, TW 4-2872, or Mrs. E. Stanley Hobbs, Jr., 899-5766, who will welcome assistance in this gracious attempt to make Weston's past, and therefore its present, more meaningful.

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

1965

February 10:

Charter Anniversary Dinner
Speaker: Mr. Roland W. Robbins

April 19:

Patriots' Day Pageant on the Town Green

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.:

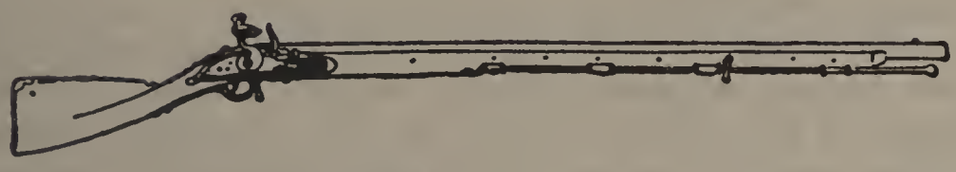
Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

Mr. Harold G. Travis	Mrs. Eric Reissner	Mrs. William G. Burt, Jr.
President	*Information Chairman*	*Bulletin Editor*
899-4515	TW 3-7039	TW 3-0804

March 1965
Vol. II, No. 3

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN



Brown Bess, a Flintlock

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Circle this date on your calendar and mark it "IMPORTANT":

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1965

Plans for the commemoration of the 190th anniversary of the participation of Weston patriots in the rout of the British as they returned from Concord to Boston are developing rapidly. They include a pageant, an opportunity to walk over a part of the route the farmers took, and open house at the Jones House.

Small though Weston was at the time, 100 men and three officers of Captain Samuel Lamson's Militia Company and 11 men and three officers of Captain Israel Whittemore's Militia Company of Artillery marched on April 19, 1775, to join in this beginning of a Revolutionary War that was to separate 13 colonies from a mother country and result in a United States of America.

The pageant will unfold at 10 A.M. at the intersection of the Old Boston Post Road and Church Street, in the vicinity of the Town Green and those two cherished possessions of our heritage, the Jones House and the First Parish Church. It will show bits of the way of living in those days, touch on the political problems of that moment, recreate the arrival of the alarm, how it was spread, the gathering of the minutemen, and the departure of these patriots with a firm idea but an uncertain fate.

Representatives of many Weston organizations are planning to march "with the farmers". It is hoped that each and every one attending also will walk over the course of the road as it was in 1775 — this course having been recently established by members of the Weston Historical Society for this celebration.

At the conclusion of the pageant and march, the Society will provide hospitality and an opportunity for a tour of its headquarters at the Jones House, which in 1775 was known as Josiah Smith's Tavern.

The day will be the Monday after Easter Sunday, the date April 19, and the time 10 A.M.

WANTED

Wanted: For the April 19 pageant: guns, edged weapons and accessories, vintage 1775 or earlier.

The committee has encountered and solved many stimulating problems in developing this event, but a thorny one remains: the arming of the cast, authentically and sufficiently.

The standard firearm of the time was the flintlock musket with bayonet, of European pattern, a muzzle-loading weapon of smooth bore and large caliber. Pistols of the period had the same characteristics. Pennsylvania and Kentucky rifles were in existence, but scarce in New England and of little value for fighting. Because they required more time for loading and lacked the much-needed bayonet, they played a minor role. The percussion system of ignition had not yet been devised.

The available muskets were British in origin or were patterned after them by colonial gunsmiths. The Brown Bess, developed during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714), was the fashion for well over 100 years. For purposes of identification, these flintlock muskets were of barrel round in entire length and about .75 caliber, in the earlier years 46 inches long, reduced in the reign of King George shortly before 1760 to 42 inches, and probably a few years after our 1775 date to 39 inches. The name Brown Bess stemmed from the color of the barrel, resulting from the acid pickling process used. Stocks were usually walnut, the mounts brass, ramrods wooden (though iron ones were introduced about 1724, but adopted slowly), and bayonets were attached to the top of the barrel. American gunsmiths had to use metal parts over and over again and often made maple stocks.

These guns could not be accurately aimed at the enemy. They could only be pointed in his general direction. Perhaps for this reason the basic formation for engagement was the line of battle, two or three rows of men shoulder to shoulder, one row immediately behind the other, and file closers or reserves a few feet in the rear to take the places of casualties. Those attacking marched within sure range, delivered a volley, then charged to decide the issue hand to hand. The defenders waited for sufficiently close approach of the enemy, fired, tried to reload and fire again before the attackers were on them with bayonets. It is said that the patriots were defeated at Bunker Hill because they were not armed with bayonets.

All loading and firing was done by command. The volley was ordered to be pointed ahead or to the right or left oblique. The object was to produce a pattern of fire, the rapidity far more important than the accuracy.

In comparison with present standards, the Brown Bess was an unreliable weapon for doing damage. Accounts of the time relates that an expert with a musket "not ill-bored" could strike the figure of a man at 80 yards, possibly at 100. The impact of the bullet was such that "only the very unfortunate" was ever wounded by a shot from 150 yards.

The rapidity of fire possible from the Brown Bess was of quite a different order. A military treatise of 1768 required that a recruit be drilled until he could load and fire 15 times in three and three-quarter minutes, or one shot every 15 seconds — a rate assuring two volleys at an approaching enemy in an average charge.

Combat in 1775 involved two opposing forces (perhaps a regiment of 500 men on each side, each a compact mass), the contact close range, accuracy of fire unimportant but the speed of it crucial. The attackers had to expect to receive 1,000 bullets in the two volleys during the 20 to 25 seconds it would take them to negotiate something less than 100 yards, the second volley to be received at no more than 30 yards. They could count on only 500 bullets to send — and then their bayonets. The patriots won the battle at Stony Point because they were ordered in the attack not to use their firearms but to engage the enemy with their edged weapons.

It is of interest that there were only two battles in the Revolutionary War fought by the patriots from behind trees and over stone walls: ours and at Kings Mountain, Tennessee. All of the other battles were conducted in the accepted European fashion of the time.

Pistols were available, though not in common use. Of the British ones, those made in the reigns of William III and Queen Anne had 14 inch barrels, those in George I's reign (1714-1727) 12 inch .60 caliber barrels round the entire length, and in 1760 the barrels were reduced to nine inches and the caliber increased to .69. French pistols of the period had nine inch barrels and iron ramrods.

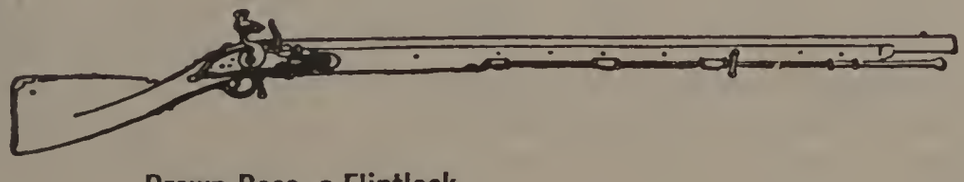
Gunpowder was the propelling force and always in short supply. The spherical lead ball was the standard missile. Muskets were usually loaded with one full-sized ball and a few buck shot. There are evidences that at times the balls were cut, and that nails and other iron were used — so that there are records of Revolutionary War "atrocities". The powder and the balls for a shot were rolled into a soft brown paper, and the result was known as a cartridge.

Cartridges were carried in boxes hung on the right from shoulder straps, or from the belt. The cartridge or cartouche boxes each held 20 to 30 of the paper rolls and weighed five to six pounds when filled.

Other pieces of equipment were powder horns, shot pouches, flints, bullet molds, scourers or worms, priming wires, picks, brushes, plugs for muzzles and touch holes, gun slings, sword and bayonet belts and (popular with the colonists) tomahawks.

The April 19 Committee would very much appreciate the loan of any of this circa 1775 armament now in posession of members and friends of the Society, either to be used in the pageant or so that patterns for facsimilies could be made. Harold G. Travis, President, TW 9-4515, will welcome calls, and the Committee assumes responsibility for all articles loaned for this occasion.

ROBERT J. MACMILLAN, *Pageant Chairman*



Brown Bess, a Flintlock

What They *Were* Wearing in Weston

Mrs. Frank Shaw and Mrs. Gordon Littlehale are co-chairmen of the display of old costumes to be shown in the ballroom of the Jones House on April 19, 1965. They are planning a display of old-fashioned costumes of various periods and they are eager to hear from members willing to exhibit and/or model old costumes, to lend dress forms, and to serve as hostesses.

Digging Up the Past

Two Seminars to acquaint members of the Society with techniques they should have to pursue their genealogical or archaeological undertakings have recently been held. On March 10th twelve members of the Society met at the home of Mrs. McKinley Warren, our genealogical consultant. The second seminar took place on March 17th at the Jones House (subsequent to the day this bulletin went to press). It was led by Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Gorely, Jr. and dealt with the art of archaeology.

The Research Committee, headed by Erlund Field, has many important projects under way, including a search for data on the milk house that once stood on the Hubbard estate, the Hook and Hastings Organ Factory that moved to Weston in 1888, the Jericho area, the Harrington House at 555 Wellesley Street, and old tombstones in Weston cemeteries. It is interested generally in information about old houses and in old photographs, and specifically in biographical material concerning Isaac Fiske.

The committee wishes to start immediately a record file of historical material pertaining to these and other historical sites, events and inhabitants of yesterday's Weston that may be in the possession of today's residents. If you have any such material, will you please notify Mrs. Lyman Hayes, Miss Constance Burrage or Mr. Field. They will wish to know whether it is available either now or at some future time as either a gift or a loan to the Society, or for study by the archivist, custodian or members.

Did You Know . . . ?

When last November two brothers were elected to the United States Senate, it seemed at first blush that here must be a "first." But very promptly it was noted by Life magazine and various newspapers that Robert and Edward Kennedy were following a trail blazed 164 years earlier by the Foster brothers, Dwight and Theodore, ancestors of Weston's Dwight Foster, who lives now at 96 Church Street.

The earlier Dwight Foster (great-great-grandfather of today's Mr. Foster) was elected Senator from Massachusetts in 1800 and Theodore was elected that same year as U. S. Senator from Rhode Island. Both men served for three years. They were descended from Reginald Foster, the first Foster settler in this country, who was born at Exeter, England, and immigrated here in 1636.

OPEN HOUSE

in the Golden Ball Tavern

Saturday, April 10th from 1:30 to 5:00 P.M. the Golden Ball Tavern will open its doors to visitors to display many of its treasures. Various organizations of the Town of Weston are participating in the preparations. Refreshments will be served by our hospitality committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. E. Paul Floyd. The Country Garden Club is doing flower arrangements and members of the Antiques Appreciation group of the Community League are busy making a quilt to be shown in one of the bedrooms.

Among the treasures to be seen is a pastel portrait of William Pitt Jones who lived in the Tavern on the day a spy for General Howe knocked at the door and obtained directions for General Howe's army. His subsequent report may well have been responsible for the itinerary change so that the battles of Concord and Lexington took place where they did rather than in Watertown and Weston. There will be a nominal admission charge of 25 cents per person.

To protect the floors of the Golden Ball Tavern, please do not wear spiked heels.

MR. & MRS. EDWARD K. MARSHALL
10 CRESCENT ST.
WESTON, MASS.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

March, 1965

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships Are Suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

1965

April 10: Open House — Golden Ball Tavern

April 19: Patriots' Day Pageant on the Town Green

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.:

Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

Mr. Harold G. Travis	Mrs. Eric Reissner	Mrs. William G. Burt, Jr.
President	*Information Chairman*	*Bulletin Editor*
899-4515	TW 3-7039	TW 3-0804

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

June, 1965, Vol. I, No. 4.

Gifts

The climbing rosebush which the Town of Weston in England sent to the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., for our 250th Anniversary in 1963 has been released from quarantine and the Park Commission has planted it in the Soldier's Park adjoining the Monument at the junction of the Boston Post Road and Concord Road. It will climb over the wall beside the monument. We owe a vote of thanks to Dr. Donald Wyman, under whose guidance the Arnold Arboretum capably nourished and nurtured it into vigorous health.

Thus does Weston, Massachusetts, keep faith with its sister town in England by perpetuating this living symbol of civic friendship.

* * *

The Society wishes to thank Mrs. Edward P. Ripley, our oldest charter member, for the gift of a saber inherited by her late husband, long a servant of the Town, from his grandfather. Mrs. Ripley has also given to us a reed from the famous Hook & Hastings organ factory that stood for so many years at the corner of Viles Street and North Avenue.

Program Planning

The plans for next years' programs for the Weston Historical Society are already taking shape. The program Committee has indicated that meetings will follow the same general pattern used during the past two years—the annual meeting in November, the Anniversary Dinner in February and a meeting or event in April.

Tentative plans call for the November program to center on talent within our own organization. Mr. Harry Patterson and Mrs. Albert Wheeler are collaborating on a dramatic portrayal of the increasing spirit of rebellion in pre-revolutionary days; for February, final arrangements are in process for a speaker who promises to be outstanding; and for April, a panel discussion is being arranged with members of the staff of the Weston public schools directed toward informing our membership of the role and teaching of history as it is presented to the children of today. We hope, too, to learn where local history fits into the curriculum and just how members of our Society might aid the efforts of the teaching staff.

"Cracker Barrel Conversation"

"The scene is the general store in Weston, with a stove or fireplace and a cracker barrel. The time is early March, 1770. A group of farmers, sitting comfortably, is discussing crops, the winter's activities, and town affairs, especially the condition of the poorhouse, toward which everyone, under England's oppression, seems to be surely heading. Women come in now and then to buy things and to comment caustically on the laziness of menfolk.

"Suddenly a traveler from Boston enters, bringing the first news of the Boston Massacre, and the conversation immediately erupts into a vehement, table-pounding political discussion. A couple of Tories are mixed in for extra excitement."

So begins the description of a one-act costume play that will be presented by the Society at its Fall Meeting. At this point in the script appears this note: "We have not yet figured out how the scene will end."

How do you think the scene will end??

Watch for a detailed announcement of this dramatic production in the fall issue of this Bulletin.

Tax Exemption

The Weston Historical Society is now officially tax exempt as an educational and charitable organization under the Federal income tax laws. Contributions are officially deductible by donors within the limits provided in the Internal Revenue Code with respect to such organizations. A ruling to this effect, dated April 22, 1965, has been received by the Society.

Authority On Old Guns Needed!

We found out during the pageant that there is lots to be learned about the proper preservation of old guns and muskets. The Society has many of them on hand and is hopeful that its membership includes someone who is an expert on the cleaning and preserving of such historical pieces. Anyone willing to offer his services in this capacity should contact our fellow member, Dr. R. J. MacMillan at 319 Longwood Avenue, Brookline—telephone BE 2-3911.

"A Short Clergyman"

The following item, culled from The Waltham Sentinal of September 19, 1862, has no direct connection with Weston history, but it illustrates what our forebears here were offered by the local press in the way of humor to lighten the spirit in the second year of the Civil War:

"A few miles below Poughkeepsie, N. Y., there now lives, and has lived for several years past, a worthy clergyman—a man, however, very

short in stature. Upon a certain Sunday this clergyman was invited by the pastor of a church in that village to fill the pulpit for the day. Now it happened that the pulpit was a very high one, and accordingly nearly hid the poor little clergyman from view. However, the congregation, out of respect, managed to keep their countenances, and with over-pious faces seemed religiously anxious for the text.

"They were not obliged to wait long, for a nose and two eyes suddenly appeared over the top of the pulpit, and a tremulous voice proclaimed the text: 'Be of good cheer; it is I—be not afraid.'

"Afternoon came, and the little man, standing on a footstool, had a fair view of his audience. The text was announced: 'A little while ye shall see me, and again a little while and ye shall not see me.' In the course of his sermon, he repeated his text with great earnestness and, stepping back, lost his elevated footing and disappeared."

To Every Member of the Weston Historical Society

A Research Committee has been formed to ascertain the whereabouts of treasured possessions in the hands of our members. We are particularly interested in items prior to 1900.

At this time, we are soliciting neither gifts to our Society nor loans for exhibition purposes. Unfortunately we do not have the facilities to protect them now as they should be protected.

However, we want to know where they are and what they are.

Anything of interest to you might well be of interest to us and others. Some suggested items are:

1. Old costumes, uniforms, military insignia.
2. Deeds, wills, bills of sale, account books, service records.
3. Photographs, posters, price lists, advertisements.
4. Genealogies, diaries.
5. Furniture of historical interest and household furnishings.
6. Tools used in carpentry, farming, leatherwork, etc.
7. Silverware, cutlery, old coins.
8. Old books, periodicals, clippings.

We propose to catalogue this information. You may be in doubt regarding the authenticity, value, or period of some item. We may be able to help you to establish its place in history.

Will you return the enclosed questionnaire before you forget? Kindly mail it to the Secretary of our Research Committee, Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht, 24 Sears Road, Weston, or telephone any of these Committee members:

Miss Constance Burrage	894-0512
Mrs. Lyman S. Hayes	894-1472
Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht	899-1320
Mr. Erlund Field, Chairman of Research	237-9899

To the Research Committee,

Weston Historical Society:

I have the following items that may be of interest to the Society:

1. ☐ Costumes, ☐ uniforms, ☐ insignia.
2. ☐ Deeds, ☐ wills, ☐ bills of sale, ☐ account books, ☐ records.
3. ☐ Photographs, ☐ posters, ☐ price lists, ☐ advertisements
4. ☐ Genealogies, ☐ diaries.
5. ☐ Furniture, ☐ household furnishings.
6. ☐ Tools: ☐ carpentry, ☐ farming, ☐ leatherwork, ☐ other.
7. ☐ Silverware, ☐ cutlery, ☐ old coins.
8. ☐ Old books, ☐ periodicals, ☐ clippings.
9. ☐ Other.

Please describe below as specifically as possible the items checked.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signed: _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Check here ☐ if items may be seen by this Committee.

The Directors and Officers of the Weston Historical Society wish all members a happy and rewarding summer 1965. Our next Bulletin will be issued in the fall.

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

President	*Bulletin Editor*	*Information Committee*
Mr. Harold G. Travis	Mrs. William G. Burt, Jr.	Mrs. Eric Reissner
899-4515	893-7039	Mrs. Raymond Paynter
		Mrs. Henry W. Patterson
		Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
		Chairman
		899-0177

The Weston Historical Society Bulletin

June, 1965

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October, 1965, Vol. II, No. 1.

"Around The Cracker Barrel"

The annual meeting of the Weston Historical Society, Incorporated is scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 9th at the Town House, followed by an original and sparkling one act play "Around the Cracker Barrel" by Henry W. Patterson and H. Patterson Wheeler. We expect that this is but the forerunner of many more plays by members as a result of fascinating material constantly being unearthed by Research Committee workers.

The stage for the play is the local country store and trading post in March, 1770. A rider has just arrived from Boston with startling news, the reaction to which is instantaneous and heated. Come and see what happened!

The committee is busy recruiting the cast and, through the Bulletin, wants to find 14 men of all ages to try out for the various parts, none of which are difficult. In addition to the "tried and true" actors, we know we will discover new talent among our 600 active members. Also, the scenery needs an old stove and any other items one would find in the country store of Colonial times. Most of all it needs costumes appropriate to the year 1770. If you have talent or such objects to volunteer, please phone Mrs. Wheeler today at 893-2132.

Annual Meeting: November 9 – 8 P.M.

Business to be transacted includes the election of three new directors, a summary of the year's activities, and a forecast of plans for the coming year. Present officers are: Mr. Harold G. Travis, President; Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr., Vice-President; Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Second Vice President; Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, Secretary, and Mr. Harry B. Jones, Treasurer.

The directors are: Mr. J. Kenneth Bennett, Mr. John G. Brooks, Mr. Brenton H. Dickson III, Mr. Erlund Field, Mr. Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mr. Henry W. Patterson, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, Mr. Harold G. Travis, Mr. Wilmot Whitney, and Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr.

Committee chairmen for the current season are: Mrs James E. Fraser, Curator; Miss Rebecca McKenna, Archivist; Mr. Brenton H. Dickson III, Historian; Mr. Erlund Field, Research; Mr. Harold B. Willis, Jr., House; Mrs. Boardman Bump, Program; Mrs. Julio Correa, Hospitality; Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Information; Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Liaison; Mr. Wilmot Whitney, Membership, and Mr. Leonard Dowse, Finance.

Coming Events

Mrs. Boardman Bump, chairman of the Program Committee, announces that at our traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner at the High School Cafeteria and Auditorium on Friday evening, January 28th, Mr. Robert E. Pike, author and lecturer, will speak on early New England logging. Our fellow member, Mr. Stephen T. Riley has recommended Mr. Pike most highly.

Subsequently on Tuesday evening, April 12th, a panel discussion on how history is being taught in the Weston Public Schools will occur. Mr. Ernest L. Hunter, Principal of the Brooks School, is cooperating with other faculty members and local historians.

"Tour of Jericho"

As soon as the leaves are off the trees and bushes, the Directors are planning a tour of Jericho, Weston's lost settlement, to be headed by Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson, Charles P. Gorely, Jr., and Harold B. Willis, Jr. If you are interested, please notify one of the above. The Research Committee has a careful study on its agenda, and it is possible that as a result of this tour, some archaeological probings such as suggested last year by our Lincoln neighbor, Mr. Roland Wells Robbins, "The Pick and Shovel Historian," may be undertaken.

"Always on Wednesday"

More members should get in the habit of dropping in at the Society's rooms on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Jones House (The Josiah Smith Tavern). Mrs. Fraser and her committee have tabulated a lot of valuable information in respect to the priceless relics that are on display. Come and bring your friends.

A Priceless Keepsake

While there's still time, only a few copies of "Once Upon a Pung" are obtainable at the Village Book Stall, 494 Boston Post Road. It would make a most acceptable birthday or Christmas gift to a relative, friend, or new neighbor. In it are word pictures of our quaint old town and its people in the gay nineties and early hundreds. It will be a treasure for all time, and no plans were made for a second printing. Make sure that you have enough copies of the limited edition that was a feature of the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration in 1963.

A Reminder

We are proud to say that we are one of the largest historical societies in the country. Even so, we emphasize that new members are always welcome. Dues are kept at a nominal figure. Wilmot Whitney (894-3007) is Membership Chairman. If your neighbor has not joined, suggest that he do so. We are members of the Bay State Historical League and under the direction of Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Chairman of our Liaison Committee, visits are arranged to other societies. Last year various members attended meetings and exhibits in such places as Andover, Boston, Sandwich, and Worcester. This interchange of information, technique, and ideas is most stimulating and helpful.

"A Contented Life"

The Waltham Historical Society has given us a complete set of the "Waltham Sentinel" published during the mid-nineteenth century. One of the amusing items found by our Research Committee in the paper dated August 10, 1860 is the following:

(At Thirty):
Five hundred dollars I have saved,
A rather moderate store;
No matter — I shall be content
When I've a little more.

(At Forty):
Well! I can count ten thousand now,
That's better than before:
And I may well be satisfied
When I've a little more.

(At Fifty):
Some fifty thousand; pretty well!
But I have earned it sore;
However, I shall not complain
When I've a little more.

(At Sixty):
One hundred thousand! sick and old —
Ah! life is half a bore!
Yet, I can be content to live
When I've a little more.

(At Seventy):
He dies, — and to his greedy heirs,
He leaves, a countless store;
His wealth has purchased him a tomb
and very little more.

—(Home Journal).

Liberty Tree's 200th Anniversary

Two hundred years ago, near the corner of what is now Washington and Essex Streets in Boston, — ten years before the shots heard 'round the world at Lexington and Concord, — the first organized and violent resistance by a group of colonists against the mother country exploded. Whether "rough heroes" or "uncouth, murderous bullies," the Sons of Liberty abruptly made mutterings a thunder.

A tree was involved. It was one of the elms planted in 1646, 16 years after the Massachusetts Bay Colony was established, the earliest record of shade tree planting in the New World. It thrived in what some 120 years

later was the front yard of a Boston tavern where patriots gathered. It became the place where they posted notices, hence a rallying point, and they adopted the tree as their symbol.

On August 14, 1765, effigies of Oliver and Bute were hung, the former on hand in Boston, the latter in England, both charged with enforcement of the Stamp Act. A riot followed. The tree and its ground became sacred, and it served that purpose for the next ten years. In August 1775 as a last act of violence in the evacuation, the British cut down the Liberty Tree. Some of the inhabitants were even pleased that one of the workers was killed by a falling branch, while others were apparently appeased by the fact that it yielded fourteen cords of firewood.

This year, two centuries later, many people and organizations have planted Liberty Trees. Time still remains for it to be done in Weston. Our fellow member, Dr. Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum, advises that trees given generous watering and soaking can be successfully planted until early November. In view of the temptation to follow tradition, he suggests that you avoid elms advertised as "disease-resistant" and that selection be made from many other species that are shapely and long-lived. Records refer to oak, pine, and sycamore as "Liberty Trees," elsewhere in the colonies.

If you desire to learn more about the origin and significance of the "Liberty Tree," you will find much information in the Boston Globe of September 6, 1965, in Horticulture's April 1965 issue, in "Boston Ways" by George F. Weston, Jr., and in an essay by Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger in Columbia's "The American Revolution Album."

Robert J. MacMillan

Another Plea for Information

In our previous issue the Research Committee asked for information concerning treasured possessions whose vintage antedates the 1900s. Responses were not as large as anticipated, and before making an inventory record, one further appeal for cooperation is hereby made.

Please advise Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht (899-1320), 24 Sears Road, Weston what items you have in these categories: costumes, uniforms, insignia, deeds, wills, records, photographs, posters, price lists, advertisements, diaries, genealogies, furniture, household furnishings, tools, silverware, cutlery, old coins, old books, periodicals, or clippings.

When special occasions arise or inquiries are received, the Society would like to have as complete a record as possible as to what is available for display, references, or observation. At this time with cramped facilities, we are not yet soliciting gifts or loans of such relics, but would like to make a list of all the historical lore in the town. Weston's history must be preserved, and our young people indoctrinated in its glory.

This prompts us to urge all our members to be "self-starters" in ferreting out Weston's history. If you own an old house or have an abandoned cellar hole or a "lost road" write out all the facts pertaining thereto and send it to us. Helpful suggestions are available to you anytime by calling the Research Chairman, Erlund Field, at 237-9899.

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society and sent to: Mr. H. B. Jones — 448 Concord Road, Weston.

President

Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Bulletin and Information Committee

Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Chairman
899-0177

Mr. Henry W. Patterson

Mrs. Raymond A. Paynter, Jr.

Mrs. Eric Reissner

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
October, 1965

MR. & MRS. HAROLD G. TRAVIS
SADDLEHILL RD.
WESTON, MASS.

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WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1965 - 1966

November 9:	Annual Meeting at 8 P.M., Town House Dramatic presentation: "Around the Cracker Barrel"
January 28:	Charter Anniversary Dinner Speaker: Mr. Robert E. Pike
April 12:	Panel Discussion: Teaching History in the Weston Schools.

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.
Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1966, VOL. II, NO. 2.

"THE ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE

President's New Year Message

This will be the year when the momentum of our various programs will sharply accelerate. At long last, it appears that we shall have a home of our own, for as we go to press, an informal agreement has been reached with the Board of Selectmen whereby we shall have the care and custody of the historic Isaac Fiske Law Office on the Post Road between Central Cemetery and the Burgoyne Elm. By the time you receive this Bulletin, it is probable that final papers will have been signed and the responsibility for its preservation and maintenance will be ours.

Here in our "House by the Side of the Road," official headquarters will greet visitors, give out information, and serve our members. Records will be set up as a reference library, and displays of papers, pictures and other items of historic value are contemplated in this charming setting.

The Directors are counting on the active support of all members to the end that our many activities can be expedited at both our new office with its archives and records, and at the Jones House where priceless heirlooms of Weston are on display.

To all the Board and to our dedicated officers and committees, I cannot adequately express my appreciation for their stimulating cooperation. Though we are young in years, we are old in historical background and our membership is among the largest in the country. The Minute Man Pageant of last April 19th, the superb production of "Around the Cracker Barrel" at our annual meeting on November 11, 1965 (undaunted by the November 9th "Northeast Power Blackout") and the steady, conscientious activities of our many officers and committees all augur well for the preservation, protection and promotion of Weston's exceptional heritage.

Harold G. Travis

History of the Isaac Fiske Law Office

As far as can be ascertained, the Isaac Fiske Law Office was built about 1800 by Artemus Ward, son of General Artemus Ward of Shrewsbury, but no relation to Charles F. Browne, the humorist, who wrote under the pen name of "Artemus Ward."

A number of small, country law offices were erected in Massachusetts during the latter part of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Very few remain. They were approximately the same design with a small entrance hall opposite a large, central chimney and a single room on either side, each with its own fireplace.

For a while Ward shared his office with Alpheus Bigelow who later built his own, a prototype, near the Weston-Wayland line. Soon after Bigelow's departure, Ward took Isaac Fiske in as a partner. Later, when Ward left Weston, Fiske became the sole proprietor of the office.

Isaac Fiske was born in Weston in 1778, graduated from Harvard in 1798, and practiced law in Weston for more than thirty years. He served as town clerk from 1805 to 1826 and was Register of Probate of Middlesex County for a number of years during which time he probably resided in Cambridge. He married Sukey Hobbs, daughter of Ebenezer Hobbs in 1802 and, upon her demise, married her sister, Sophronia. He died in 1861 and, presumably, his widow inherited his real estate. When she died, the law office went to the heirs of Isaac's late son, Augustus H. Fiske. Many of their descendants are still residents of the town and members of our Society.

Augustus was born in Weston in 1805 in the house now belonging to Mr. Harry Starr on the corner of Church Street and North Avenue. This was the home of his mother's family. After graduating from Harvard in 1825, he resided in Boston where he was eminently successful as a lawyer. He was a "man of knockdown logic . . . with a memory that can clinch a thousand new facts with greater ease than it can let go of an old one . . . Whoever seeks an engagement with Augustus H. Fiske in modern financeering is bound to come off second best." (Rich Men of Massachusetts, 1851).

Augustus moved back to Weston in 1848 when he purchased the Parson Woodward house (now Wilkinson) on Concord Road. He died in 1864 at the age of fifty-nine, having "enjoyed more of the substantial fruits of success than has perhaps ever fallen to the lot of any other member of the Boston bar." (F. C. Pierce: Fisk and Fiske Family).

Augustus's heirs divided the Fiske real estate in 1920 and the law office became the property of his grandson, Charles H. Fiske, Jr., who modernized it and erected the rear wing for living quarters. He occupied it spasmodically for a few years and finally sold it to the town with certain restrictions. Used as an office for the town's historical committee until World War II, it then housed a veteran until recently when the Selectmen voted to convey its custody and maintenance to the Weston Historical Society, Incorporated. Thus is the preservation of its traditional character being safeguarded and the facilities of our Society enhanced.

Society to Greet Newcomers to Weston

Through the facilities of the Welcome Wagon, newcomers to Weston will now receive a letter written by Mr. Harold G. Travis, President, on behalf of the Historical Society. This letter contains information about the work and activities of the Society and, of course, encourages new memberships.

Captivating Speaker to Address Society at Charter Dinner

SECOND CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER, January 28, 1966

On Friday, January 28th at 6:45 P.M., the Weston Historical Society will hold its second annual Charter Anniversary Dinner in the cafeteria of the Weston High School. A tear-off form for reservations is provided on the back of this Bulletin. Please expedite the Committee's work by mailing it today.

The Charter Anniversary Dinner is considered to be the highlight of our Society's annual get-togethers and another record crowd is anticipated. Mrs. Julio Correa and her Hospitality Committee are working hard on plans for the event. The tables will be arranged for sociability, each having a hostess, and members with their guests may sit where they wish. To save time and get us home early, the gathering will adjourn to the auditorium at the conclusion of dinner.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Robert E. Pike of Eatontown, N. J. and northern Vermont. His lecture on the early days of logging and river-driving in New England comes enthusiastically recommended. He has worked in the woods and on the rivers himself and tells his story with gusto and humor—"earthy but in good taste."

Dr. Pike has been Chairman of the Foreign Language Department at Monmouth College in New Jersey for the past 16 years and had previously taught at Minnesota and Harvard. A native of Vermont, he holds degrees from Dartmouth, University of Minnesota and a Ph.D from Harvard. He writes extensively for what he terms "popular" magazines such as "LIFE" and "ATLANTIC," contributing both stories and articles and also has had many scholarly articles published in professional journals. He is currently engaged in writing his seventh book.

Robin Hood Plays Part in Naming Kendal Green

In 1885, a new Post Office was to be set up to serve the northern part of Weston and a name had to be decided upon.

Miss Anna Hall, a member of our Society, has in her possession a letter written by General James F. B. Marshall, grandson of Rev. Samuel Kendal, defending his position in suggesting the name "Kendal Green." The General had had strong opposition from those who had wanted a "North Weston," an office named after a living citizen such as Hastings, Hagar, Gregory, Brown, Coburn, etc., or a name chosen because of the natural features of the locality such as Cat Rock, Hobb's Brook, Brown's Hill

The following is quoted verbatim from his letter which he had addressed to "Mr. Editor" after having written this quotation, "How couldst thou know these men in Kendal Green, when 'twas so dark thou couldst not see thy hands?" (King Henry IV, Act II, Scene IV.)

"In this dilemna the name of "Kendal" was suggested as a good name, commemorative of a good man, Rev. Samuel Kendal, D.D., or "Good Parson Kendal," who was the last of the colonial village pastors and whose name is identified with the early history of the town. As, however, there are already "Kendalls", "Kendalvilles", and "Kendall Station" post offices, the name of

Kendal Green, immortalized by Shakespeare, of pleasant sound and significance, was finally fixed upon. There is no post office of the name in the U.S.

"The family name of Kendal from which Parson Kendal was descended, is said to have originated with a forester of Queen Elizabeth whose name was John, who lived in the valley of the river "Ken" (now called Kent) and who was called after the custom of those days "John of Ken Dale" which by easy transition became John Kendal.

"The town of Kendal in the same valley of Westmoreland County is noted for having the ruins of the castle of Catherine Parr, one of the wives of Henry VIII, and for its manufacture of green cloth called Kendal Green, which was adopted by Robert, Earl of Huntington, when he was outlawed, and took the name of Robin Hood, as uniform for himself and followers. The Kendal factory is still in operation and the green cloth formerly worn by 'Robin Hood and his merrie men,' is now put to more peaceful as well as more useful wear as the uniform of the Kendal fire department.

"The Shakespearean quotation which heads this already too long story of explanation was Prince Hal's reply to Falstaff when that doughty warrior boasted of having slain seven of the eleven misbegotten knaves in Kendal Green. We trust we have no knaves in our Kendal Green though it must be confessed that not long ago we had one who got away for the same reason given by Falstaff for allowing his other four assistants to escape. He was the hen thief, one of those vagrant men whom the valiant and vigilant Dogberry advised that we let steal out of our company and thank God we are rid of a knave—we let him steal and now we thank God we are rid of the knave.

"I will only add that when the petition for a P. O. was circulated the name Kendal Green was written in pencil that it might be altered in case a better one was suggested, but we found no serious objection was made."
Weston, Dec. 14, 1885

J. F. B. Marshall

Jericho, Jericho, Where Art Thou?

As soon as the leaves were off the trees, the Committee on uncovering the lost settlement of Jericho went to work. The first step after receiving the kind permission of the owner was a brush-clearing operation at strategic spots. Messrs. Charles P. Gorely, Jr. and Brenton H. Dickson enlisted through Henri Atkins the help of several energetic and husky Boy Scouts, after which, with "pick 'n shovel," compasses and courage, they began their careful excavations. As is typical of research, the project presents frustrating but tantalizing problems that call for patience and perseverance. Already certain discoveries, meager though they are at the time of writing, are sufficient to support the theory that, as was true over the Wayland line, relics of life and living here in the 17th century do indeed lie beneath several inches of mold and humus in this forest region.

The President said in his annual report about the general activities of the Society: "The more we accomplish and the deeper we dig, the more we widen the scope of our field. For indeed after scratching the surface for two years, we are still opening up new vistas of exploration, so our work will never be finished, as day by day, we recapture more of the lore and relics of the past three centuries in Weston." Until the work at Jericho has proceeded further, members are asked to understand why they cannot yet be invited to inspect "progress to date," as inadvertently the disturbance of processed areas might nullify some of the Committe's partially completed studies.

"Around the Cracker Barrel" a Great Success

Shown above are two members of the cast, Mrs. Allan T. Wheeler and her granddaughter, (in fact and fiction), Tracy Larkins, in the costumes they wore as "Mrs. Russell" ("Goody") and "Melissa." Because of her triple role as co-author, actress and coach, Mrs. Wheeler's name appeared on the program as H. Patterson Wheeler, Helen Wheeler and Mrs. Allan Wheeler.

Originally scheduled for November 9th, the play was staged two nights later at the postponed annual meeting of the Society. A large and enthusiastic audience paid tribute to the cast throughout the entire performance. Other members included: Henri Atkins as "Josiah Smith," John Fiske as "Joel Smith," C. Inglis Wetmore as "Sam Train," Donald Douglass as "Deacon Jones," Aubrey Jones as "Abner Chubb," John Gates as "Nathan Coolidge," Reed Amadon as "Uriah Gregory," Peter Magie as "Tom Beal," a Tory, Tom Combellick as "The rider from Boston," and Brenton Dickson as "Parson Samuel Woodward."

The play was as remarkable in the scope and veracity of the historical research represented by its costumes and script as it was in the high quality of the acting. It is hoped that this is but the forerunner of many similar plays, based on early days in Weston, written in collaboration with our Research Committee.

"New England is My Nation"

Descendants of both the Train and the Jones (The Jones House) families of early Weston, the Misses Alice Train Clapp and Marion D. Clapp of Boston, have recently presented the Society with a framed tax bill to Lewis Jones, dated 1782, and two samplers in excellent condition. One sampler was made by Betsey Train, great-grandmother of the Clapp sisters, in 1811 and the other by Betsey Train's mother, Betsey Seaverns, is undated but must be 20 to 25 years older.

Judging from the rhymes on the latter, a ten year old girl of the late 18th century could grow just as weary of her tasks as her counterpart might do in 1966. The following is what was laboriously embroidered—no wonder that the child never got around to finishing or dating it!

Betsey Seaverns is my name
New England is my nation
Weston is my dwelling place
And Christ is my salvation

* * * *

When I am dead and laid in Grave
And all my bones are rotten
When this you (U) see
Remember me
I may not be forgotten

* * * *

The Rose is Read
The Gras is Green
The days are past which I have seen
And when the Bel for me doth . . .

* * * *

One of our members, Miss Jenny C. Kroll of Exmoor Farm is responsible for these gifts to the Society A few months ago she had an unexpected visit from the Clapp sisters whom she had known when she lived in Jamaica Plain during World War I but had no idea that they had Weston connections. The subject of the samplers came up because they were troubled that nobody in their family seemed to care about them and they wished that they could be put in the possession of someone genuinely interested. Miss Kroll lost little time in assuring them that the Weston Historical Society would be delighted to have them, display them, and cherish them!

Charter Anniversary Dinner – *January 28, 1966*

Reservations $2.00 per person, not later than January 18th.

Please make checks payable to The Weston Historical Society, Inc.

(If you have not yet paid your 1966 dues, you may enclose payment with this reservation slip)

MR. HARRY B. JONES, Treasurer
448 Concord Road, Weston, Mass. 02193

Please reserve.....places at $2.00 each for —

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Cut off and mail

Officers, Directors & Committee Chairmen for 1966

President ..... Harold G. Travis
Vice-President ..... Harold B. Willis, Jr.
Second Vice-President ..... Charles P. Gorely, Jr.
Recording Secretary ..... John G. Brooks
Corresponding Secretary ..... Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke
Treasurer ..... Harry B. Jones

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John G. Brooks
Philip F. Coburn
Brenton H. Dickson III
Erlund Field
Grant M. Palmer, Jr.
Henry W. Patterson
Mrs. Homer N. Sweet
Harold G. Travis
Harold B. Willis Jr.

Committee Chairmen

Archivists: Miss Rebecca McKenna
Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser
Finance: Leonard H. Dowse
Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III
Hospitality: Mrs. Julio Correa
House: Harold B. Willis, Jr.
Information: Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
Liaison: Mrs. F. Leslie Ford
Membership: Philip F. Coburn
Program: Mrs. Boardman Bump
Research: Erlund Field

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person
Gift Memberships are suggested
Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to: Mr. H. B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
January, 1966

MR. & MRS. EDWARD K. MARSHALL
10 CRESCENT ST.
WESTON, MASS.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1966

January 28: Charter Anniversary Dinner
6:45 P.M. at the High School
Speaker: Mr. Robert E. Pike

April 12: Panel Discussion: Teaching History in the Weston Schools

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.
Open House at the Jones House
(Josiah Smith Tavern)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1966, Vol. ii, No. 3

The Scott House

The oldest house in Weston stands at the corner of Chestnut and Wellesley Streets and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Scott who restored it in 1961. During the restoration it was possible to examine structural features which otherwise would have been concealed, and many historical facts, heretofore undisclosed, were brought to light.

Mr. Charles Fiske in his 1896 address claimed that the house was built in 1696 which appears to be essentially correct, but with one definite reservation — it had undergone three major changes and bore little resemblance to the original. He did not realize that it was a composite house not running true to form — nor was there any way of his knowing this without a systematic investigation of what lay behind the walls. But now, thanks to the Scotts thorough research we have a good idea of the history and evolution of this interesting building.

The 1696 house, built of oak and pine in roughly equal proportions, had but two rooms — one on the ground floor and another above it, each measuring 18′ by 18′. Adjoining the downstairs room was an entrance hall from which stairs went up to the second floor — and behind the stairs stood the great chimney. The original staircase was removed during subsequent alterations and two closets were built to occupy this space. Behind one of these is the old smoke room where, it has been said, a British spy was concealed in Revolutionary times. It seems very unlikely, however, that the Rands, who lived there at the time, would have housed a British spy as Mr. Rand and his son were "Minute Men" and joined the Weston contingent in its march to Lexington and Concord.

The original house with its two rooms remained unaltered until 1720, or thereabouts, when a lean-to was added with a large fireplace incorporated into the existing stack. The original fireplace was made shallower, the brick work at the back being left intact and the smoke room built in the resulting void.

About 1760 came the second set of alterations — the addition of a room to the right of the front entrance, a milk room and a new stairway, while the old lean-to was removed and a new one erected. This completed the major alterations to the main part of the house and gave an outside appearance similar to what we see today. It appears that the interior of the 1760 lean-to took a number of years to complete, for under the plaster, rough boarding was discovered, fastened horizontally to the studs. On this boarding there is much doodling by children and other signs of wear, all of which would have taken years to accumulate. The ceiling was also left unplastered for a considerable period as evidenced by smoke-blackened timbers and floor boards. There is little question but what the builder intended to plaster the walls at some future date because he made the window casings wide enough to accommodate not only the preliminary rough boarding but also left extra width for plaster when he got around to putting it on.

In 1790 a shed was added to the lean-to and it remained there until 1929 when Mr. Ralph Slayton, owner at the time, pulled it down and added an ell in its place.

The original house was probably built by Thomas Allen (Allin or Alling). Eventually it became the property of Thomas Rand who was living there at the time of the Revolution and later passed it on to his descendants, one of whom, Oliver Robbins, occupied it until 1903 when the property was sold to William H. Hill of Brookline. The ownership later passed to the Slaytons and finally to the Scotts.

This is the second in a series of articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson III.

'Twas Ever Thus

For many years the citizens of Weston have voted to keep their town free of package liquor stores and public barrooms. This virtuous decision is obviously in accord with a description of the community over one hundred years ago.

An item in the "Waltham Sentinel," dated June 19, 1863, quotes from the report of the South Middlesex Temperance Union meeting held on June 5th. The Secretary had prepared a report on the state of the temperance cause in the surrounding towns. On conditions in Weston, he wrote:

"We find them generally a steady, temperate people. But little, if any, illegal traffic is carried on in this town, and few, comparatively, as tiplers or inebriates. No special attention is given to the cause (temperance) though something should be done here, as in every place until the last sale is made, the last glass drank, and the last drunkard reformed." Signed: N. A. SOULE, Sec'y., pro. tem.

A letter to the "Waltham Sentinel" published several weeks later evidently felt that the report from Weston might be slightly prejudiced because "Very much depends upon the reporter at such times. Some let their charity and love of the good reputation of their village cover a multitude of sins."

"New" Math! "New" Science!

What About "New" History!

How Can This Society Contribute to the History Program in the Weston Schools?

These Questions to be Discussed at Spring Meeting of the Society

April 12, 1966, 8:00 P.M. First Parish Church Hall

At what points can a Weston Society organized with history as its central interest be of constructive service to the community? Your Program Committee feels that a vital area of concern is the relationship of our Society to the teaching of history in the Weston schools. The much publicized changes in the teaching of science, math and languages are heard on all sides, but the new approaches to history are of equal significance. Before being able to tap what resources we may have to the advantage of our schools, we need a better understanding of how and what history is taught in Weston today.

For our April meeting, Mrs. Stanley G. French of the Program Committee and Mr. Ernest L. Hunter, Principal of the Brook School, are planning an informal, exploratory discussion between members of the Weston Historical Society and representatives from the Weston school system. Audience participation will provide an opportunity for the expression of a variety of opinions, ideas and questions directed toward establishing a strong, fruitful relationship.

Welcome to New Members!

The Society takes great pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Douglass, 650 Old Road; Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer T. Farley, 95 Summer Street; Mrs. John M. Lord, 316 Wellesley Street; Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Merrill, 215 Boston Post Road; Mr. and Mrs. James B. Muldoon, 280 Boston Post Road; Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Stimpson, 3rd, 370 Glen Road, and from Weston, Connecticut, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neffert.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee is Mr. Philip F. Coburn.

Bay State League Meetings Open to Our Members

Our members are automatically invited to all meetings of The Bay State League of Historical Societies. These are attended by several hundred people from all over the state and usually include sightseeing under the direction of the host society in the morning, followed by lunch and a business meeting in the afternoon.

The next League meeting will be held at The Wayside Inn on Saturday, April 23rd. There will be sightseeing in the morning and a business meeting with a speaker at 2 P.M. in the Martha Mary Chapel. On June 18th the Nantucket Historical Association will be host for the annual meeting. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to see this quaint island through the eyes of its historically minded citizens!

Let's give our Weston Society, one of the youngest and largest in the state, some good representation at these meetings. Mark the dates on your calendars, round up your friends, and plan a day that will be both informative and fun. Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Liaison Chairman, will be delighted to answer any questions that you may have. Her telephone is 899-8171.

The "Lamson" Family

The name of Lamson first appeared in Town Records 257 years ago, and 5 years later, just one year after Weston was incorporated, John Lamson purchased a large acreage extending from what is now Route 20 in the center of town to a point in the vicinity of the present Viles Street. It was over "Lamson Hill" 61 years later that Weston's "Minute Men" under his son, Captain Samuel Lamson, marched toward Concord and Lexington, as re-enacted in last April's pageant by the Weston Historical Society.

Subsequently and steadily the name of Lamson appears prominently in town records. We find Samuel Lamson, Jr. and Amos Lamson members of their father's Militia Company in 1780, (He became a major in 1783 and is listed as "Colonel Samuel Lamson" in 1787), — we note Major Daniel S. Lamson and Amos Lamson as members of the 3rd Middlesex Regiment when it received General Lafayette in 1812, — and we must never forget our debt to Captain Daniel S. Lamson, a major of the 16th Regiment in 1861 who died, with the rank of Colonel, before he could publish his treasured book "History of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts 1630-1890." Thanks to the late William O. Kenney whose daughter and son still reside here, and to the generosity of the late Horace S. Sears who presented a copy thereof to each family in the town, the book was finally published in 1913 in time for the 200th Anniversary celebration of the Town's incorporation.

Nor should we ever forget the devotion of many of these Lamsons to the town we love so well and should be anxious to preserve in charm, dignity and history. Serving as Selectmen were John Lamson in 1771, Samuel Lamson from 1781-1785, and Isaac Lamson from 1800-1803; as Town Clerk, Samuel Lamson in 1778 and 1787 albeit Town Treasurer from 1774-1778; John A. Lamson as representative in the General Court of the Commonwealth in 1852

and 1953; author - historian - soldier Daniel S. Lamson who served as Town Clerk in 1822 and 1823; and finally Samuel Lamson our Town Clerk from 1884-1887.

In subsequent issues we intend to review the records of other old Weston families to whom similar homage is due.

"Backyard" Historians Owe Thanks to Mr. Riley

Many of our members are particularily interested in delving into their own neighborhood history as well as learning more about the town as a whole. The field of historical research is at all times challenging, and yet most of us as amateurs are hesitant to venture deeply into it because of our lack of "expertise." Fellow-member, Mr. Stephen T. Riley, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is helping our Research Committee to accumulate pamphlets and periodicals that describe simple ways of digging up facts.

No one is closer to the latent history of Weston than we but it will only be uncovered and put into a permanent form as a result of our own work and initiative. All interested members are encouraged to take advantage of the material that the Research Committee will have available. That same committee will be eager to learn what you discover about the history of your own "backyard."

Historical Guide to Include Weston Landmarks

The Boston Chamber of Commerce has asked the Weston Historical Society to submit descriptions of local points of historical interest for inclusion in the Chamber's tourist guide.

The Chamber of Commerce, working in connection with the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co., has compiled a list of some 140 landmarks without the inclusion of Concord, Lexington or Plymouth. Weston has several sites worthy of note, principally the two Revolutionary taverns, the Burgoyne elm and many colonial homes.

Chosen sites will be indicated on a large folding map on a range that will encompass Ipswich, Sudbury and Plymouth. More than 350,000 of these will be printed and distributed.

A Gracious Favor!

Mr. Alpheus Fulton of Waltham kindly volunteered to repair the flax-wheel displayed at The Jones House. He has returned it glued, cleaned and refinished to be preserved as an attractive antique. We are greatly indebted to him for his thoughtful and skillful cooperation.

Ellen M. Jones Goes to School

The January Bulletin carried a reference to Dr. Samuel Kendal. In 1794 the good and still active minister gave to Weston a plot of ground, high on the ledge opposite the west end of Crescent Street — then a curve in the Post Road — "to erect a School House upon." Somewhat more than a century later, the schoolhouse was converted into a dwelling and is now privately owned by Mr. James B. Muldoon. Until the early 1890's, however, it was known as the "Schoolhouse on the Rock."

During the 1870's one little girl, named Ellen M. Jones, living in what at present is called The Jones House or Josiah Smith Tavern, went to this school. Each morning the stagecoach driver on his way from Marlboro to Stony Brook Station would rein in his four horses in front of her house to take on the small Ellen. All starched and be-frilled in sedate mid-Victorian mode, she was helped to the lofty seat beside the driver by her father.

One can picture her on a sunny, spring day in Weston, full of childish joy as they rumbled down the Post Road to her beloved A*B*C's. Her blue eyes sparkle, she clutches a dinner pail on her lap, her feet dangle, the ribbons on her corn-colored pigtails and on the back of her round, straw hat fly in the breeze as she sits in demure dignity beside her kind, Yankee driver. He cracks his whip, badge of latter-day knights of the road, not to spur on the horses, but as an outlet for his pride in his craft. Arriving at the high ledge, he pulls his horses to a halt, jumps down and swings his small companion to the ground, remounts and is on his way. Ellen starts up the stone steps, turns at the top to wave, then scampers into the one-room school.

This same little Ellen lived all her life with her sister, Alice, in the Jones House and when she grew up became a teacher in the same schoolhouse. For fifty years Ellen M. Jones taught both day school and Sunday School. Ready to retire, she mystified her young pupils by the question, "Fifty years in day school and fifty in Sunday School; how many years have I taught?" Also, when she did retire, someone said "Now you can do what you want to do." Her reply, "I've always done what I wanted to do — I wanted to teach."

Exteremely near-sighted, Ellen said that until she put on glasses in her middle teens, she had never seen the stars. Of course she had heard people speak of them, but she could only wonder what they looked like. Glasses she wore throughout her life and on occasion would take them off the better to see very fine print or fine stitches in her exquisite Italian embroidery. Some of the fine print may well have been in the scripts for "Friendly" plays for which she served as prompter for many years.

Any person who ever knew her would say that with her active mind and keen wit no one could have had a greater abundance of "star-shine" than Ellen M. Jones.

— Rebecca McKenna

The foregoing account was prompted by Edward S. Coburn, member of the Historical Society. More about the Jones girls may be found in "Once Upon a Pung" and "Weston: A Puritan Town" — both on sale at the Village Book Stall.

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Information Chairman
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
899-0177

MRS. JAMES E. FRASER
24 OAK ST.
WESTON, MASS.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MARCH 1966

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1966

April 12:	Open Discussion — 8:00 — First Parish Church Hall Subject: "How can this Society contribute to the History program in the Weston schools?" (See page 3 for more details)
April 23:	Bay State League Meeting at The Wayside Inn
June 18:	Bay State League Meeting at Nantucket Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M. Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May, 1966, Vol. II, No. 3

The Pact is Signed – The House is Ours!

Shown above are, l. to r. seated: Herman Koester, Jr., Chairman of Selectmen; Harold G. Travis, President of the Weston Historical Society; John G. Brooks, Clerk; standing: Philip F. Coburn, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, and J. Kenneth Bennett, Directors. This picture was taken April 26, 1966 at the historic signing of an agreement whereby the Society, for its headquarters, acquired the old Isaac Fiske Law Office.

Nestled under the famous Burgoyne Elm at 626 Boston Post Road, this "little house by the side of the road" was built in 1800 and is in excellent condition. Prior to World War II it fittingly was used as an office for the Weston Historical Committee. For a detailed description and history of the building, see the January 1966 issue of the Bulletin.

Our New Headquarters

A Sacred Trust and Challenging Responsibility

We are sure the entire membership shares with the Directors a full appreciation of what the office of the Society can mean to the Weston of all our yesterdays and tomorrows. We urge you to join with us actively in realizing its possibilities.

Here will be a central spot for our records, a convenient location for welcoming friends and for guiding visitors. In every sense, it can be the heart of Weston's rich heritage. Mr. Leslie Ford is Chairman of the Maintenance and Protection Committee under the supervision of the Society's House Committee Chairman, Harold B. Willis, Jr., a descendant of Isaac Fiske. Mr. Ford has had many years of experience in the restoration of colonial buildings. He is busily engaged in research about old, office signs, interior details and finish to the end that what is finally done will be in authentic, good taste. Mr. Edward C. Briggs will serve as watchman and a burglar-fire alarm system is being installed. Mr. and Mrs. Merton E. Williams have donated a safe to hold our most precious archives. We shall need a good sized filing cabinet.

During the summer, committees will be hard at work with the objective of having an official opening in the Fall. The exterior has recently been painted and is in good condition. Landscaping improvements in the front will be made and an attractive sign installed. Inside, a great deal of scrubbing, sandpapering, painting and restorative repairs will be necessary. Appropriate wall paper will be selected and applied. To give our members a chance to see what needs to be done, the house will be open Saturday, May 21st and Sunday, May 22nd from 2 to 5 P.M.

Furnishings, suitable to the character of the building, will have to be carefully acquired. We have already been promised the original desk of Isaac Fiske from his heirs and 2 hand-carved, oak chairs, made prior to 1750, which were in the study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the gift of Barbara Hudnut Boston of New York City who is the daughter of Mrs. David I. Hudnut, 276 Glen Road, Weston.

Outside of the sunlit lower room an old fashioned herb garden can be planned as a background to the spacious lawn, providing a setting for any activities that in pleasant weather may overflow the house itself.

A great deal of activity on the part of all members is obviously ahead. Volunteers are welcome. If you have materials or service (including "elbow grease") to donate, please advise Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, 899-0177, who will report all offers of assistance to the Directors. Your cooperation will facilitate the prompt organization of the necessary working groups.

We now can make the Weston Historical Society the vital, living force that this town deserves. From our headquarters we can extend friendliness to our visitors and give out literature describing the Town's history and its most significant sites and buildings. Through exhibits and teas both here and at the museum in our Josiah Smith Tavern rooms, we can re-live the days of yore and re-instill a sense of gratitude to our predecessors who left us a record of service to community and country.

Another Important Committee Being Formed

As our program accelerates, an era of significant cooperation between the Society and the Weston schools has dawned as the logical outcome of informal discussions that took place at the First Parish Hall on April 14th between members of the Weston school department and the Weston Historical Society.

The evening began with a brief description of the teaching of history in the Weston schools presented by Mr. Ernest Hunter, Principal of the Brook School, Mr. Phillip R. Wicky of the Junior High School, and Mr. Robert Lewis of the High School. Representing the Society were Mrs. Stanley G. French, Chairman of the meeting, Mrs. Ramsay MacMullen and Mr. Stephen T. Riley.

This spring meeting revealed an eagerness on the part of the school staff to have our resources made available to them and the need for work by our members in developing such materials into useful form. Most of the school staff lives out of town, without knowledge of Weston's background, and unable to ferret out or digest information available without our major help. The information in our files will be useful to the schools in direct proportion to its ease of access and its readability.

Many suggestions were made both by school and Society, designed to stimulate interest in the study of Weston history and its correlation to the wider world. Among the suggestions were the layout of a local Heritage Trail, an annual essay contest with a prize from the Historical Society, bus trips for pupils to points of historic interest, a Society-sponsored collection of books, documents and micro-films of records in the school libraries, involvement of high school students in local, archaeological research projects, dissemination of our "Bulletin" at strategic spots throughout the schools, and even student memberships in the Society.

A committee comprised of experts in the fields of education and history is about to be formed so that each Weston child may be imbued with a sense of patriotism and civic pride.

An added feature of the meeting was Mr. Riley's presentation to the Society of photostated copies of letters written by Samuel Phillips Savage of Weston on April 19, 1775. These copies will be framed and hung in our headquarters office as evidence of the anxieties and pressures of that fateful day.

Merton E. Williams To Be Associate Director of Research

Mr. Merton E. Williams, 321 Boston Post Road has been appointed Associate Director of Research for the Weston Historical Society. Mr. Williams has been a resident of Weston for the past 21 years and is particularily interested in the economic history of the town since its early days. He will assist Mr. Erlund Field, Chairman of the Research Committee.

"Jericho," An Intriguing Mystery

"Jericho" is bounded on the west by the Wayland Town Line, on the north by Concord and Sudbury Roads, on the south by the area north of Gun Club Lane, and it extends east through the Town Forest and land of the Fiske Estate to Concord Road just north of the bridge at Cherry Brook Station on Concord Road.

Crisscrossed with stone walls, it comprises swamps and heavily forested knolls two to three hundred feet high. Numerous cart paths remind us that once upon a distant time considerable travel took place here. What evidence can still be found of any industrial complex that might have flourished here in the early 18th Century? The most likely conjecture is a grist mill, though lumbering might well have induced a woodworking plant, and a pottery works was possibly, but no written record has been found of any such enterprises. A search therefore was recently undertaken of Cherry Brook itself to ascertain the prospect of adequate water with enough fall to turn a water wheel.

Cherry Brook originates in springs that feed Foote's Pond. Thence it runs under Warren Avenue, winds northward almost to Concord Road while tending in general to follow the course of the Massachusetts Central Railroad, and with a final bend northward, pours its waters through a bridge at Concord Road into College Pond. Irrelevant to our study is its continued devious route into Stony Brook from whence it spills into the Charles River and finally into the deep, blue sea.

At most times of the year the water flowing through Cherry Brook seems ample and reliable. Its drop in elevation however is very slight and the current is lazy. We found four replics of old dams built with earth and stone, but none of these exceed four feet in height and the surrounding features are only a scant few feet above water level. Without doubt these dams served as causeways over which farmers drove to their fields. These causeways were wide enough for horses and wagons, but there's little likelihood that any mills could have been constructed on their lee sides. These very dams undoubtedly caused the brook to back up into several small ponds inundating much of the swamp land.

In company with our neighboring and neighborly "Pick and Shovel" historian, Mr. Roland Robbins of Lincoln, your Research Committee followed Cherry Brook from its source to College Pond, (east of Concord Road), through underbrush and swamp. Almost at the outset we came to a bridge that obviously spans what was once a small dam, but it was not until we reached the bridge under Concord Road that the scent grew warm.

At that point our noted friend suddenly pointed out features that indicate a distinct possibility of the one-time existence of an old mill site. Here two substantial shoulders rise precipitously on both sides of the brook. A dam at this point could have created a large reservoir, available winter and summer, perhaps as much as ten feet above the present road level.

In recent years Concord Road has been straightened and improved but its predecessor is still in clear evidence at an elevation of more than seven feet above the present stream, with high banks on either side. Is it possible, we wonder, that our very earliest "Concord Road" was higher than the present one and that traffic to Sudbury, Acton, and Concord went over a causeway spanning or adjoining its dam? When the mill with its water wheel between

the road and College Pond then passed from the scene, was the road lowered to its present location?

The answer may well lie buried under the asphalt and tons of stone, but we can't, under conjecture alone, start to destroy this scenic highway. According to Mr. Robbins, one Saturday morning with a Back Hoe criss-crossing the road, plus plenty of volunteer member labor might produce a revelation similar to what occured last fall in Lexington when the original site of the Hancock-Clark House, headquarters of the Lexington Historical Society, was uncovered, — a project that now under Mr. Robbins' guidance has that town highly excited in an exercise that plans to move the landmark back to its 17th Century location, there to become a museum. Our committee and the President have paid several visits to this undertaking and urge our fellow members to view the work that is now in progress on Hancock Street, Lexington.

If anyone can produce suspicious and significant artifacts from the immediate vicinity of Concord Road where Cherry Brook passes under the bridge into College Pond, or if any "old timer" can recall having heard of any mill long ago on that site, communicate post haste with Erlund Field, our Research Chairman, or his associate, Merton Williams. It should be emphasized that all work to date has been decidedly "preliminary," and that before any further work is undertaken, we must uncover more authoritative clues.

Simultaneously the Committee has been attempting to uncover three possible sites where preliminary observations indicated the possibility that some of our early settlers of this, "The Farmers Precinct of the Town of Watertown," might actually have erected houses, barns, or mill buildings in "Jericho." Just across the Wayland line is a well-defined cellar hole conforming to the specifications known to have characterized 17th and 18th Century houses, with a stone-lined well a few feet away.

Less than 200 yards to the east in Weston, we found three distinct areas where depressions in the ground seemed to indicate that houses might once have stood there, and, having served their times, had been destroyed and their cellar holes filled with dirt. With probe rods, crowbars, and shovels the Committee set vigorously to work last fall, aided by volunteer Boy Scouts, in a fruitless endeavor to resurrect pieces of brick, clay pottery, ironware, etc., to locate areas where not only the topsoil but the earth, clay, and sand layers underneath had been disturbed, or to bare evidence of man-made rock installations. Despite one or two uncoverings of suspicious rock formations, Mr. Robbins for the time being, recommends other methods of investigation, for without specific clues, the effort is meaningless.

"Jericho," according to Mr. Field's father, was a segment of the land parcels alloted to early settlers of Watertown for the purpose of farming. It was the custom in those early times for those early settlers to send out their indentured servants in the spring to mind their flocks and herds until fall when they were taken to Watertown for the winter months. Quite likely the only dwellings erected on Jericho would have been of "lean to" character. When permanent settlements were built, sites were chosen nearer to church, roads, and water. This plausible theory could well prove erroneous, however, should any of our members, wandering through the natural beauty and peace of this area, come across an artifact or other evidence that "Jericho" was once indeed an actual community in early Weston days.

"Errata"

The staff of your "Bulletin" pledges accuracy as its watchword, and it will be our policy in subsequent issues to correct any item that has been found wanting in that category. We recognize that in the years to come, the "Bulletin" should be a bible of factual veracity. We are sorry that gremlins got into the last issue and made Ellen M. Jones the prompter of "Friendly" plays, as the credit should have gone to her sister, Alice E. Jones. Likewise to our fellow members, Elizabeth C. and William O. Kenney, who were not available when our March issue went to press, we bow in abject apology to correct our statement on Page 4 that it was their father who had put the finishing touches on Captain Daniel S. Lamson's "History of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts 1630-1890" following the latter's death.

The "Editor's Preface" in the front of the book is signed merely "W. S. K. Belmont, Mass. February 24, 1913," and it took a trip to the dusty vaults of the Belmont Town Hall to establish the fact that, according to the Assessors' list for the year 1913, a William S. Kennedy, "Writer", lived then on Old Concord Road, Belmont. In his closing sentence, Mr. Kennedy expresses our contrite sentiments today when he inquired "Hence over our shortcomings would it be too much to ask that kindly charity draw the veil of silence?" If in the future any discrepancies are caught or suspected, we would count it a favor to have any of our material corrected in the cause of meticulous accurcay.

Welcome To New Members!

The Society takes great pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Dr. Robert J. O'Doherty, 25 Columbine Road; Miss Elizabeth O'Doherty, 25 Columbine Road and Mr. Richard B. Hodges, 144 Sudbury Road.

Membership

The Society now has 521 paid members with 7 Life members. There are, however, 79 of last year's members whose dues have not been received. We realize how easy it is to forget a $2.00 dues notice and hope that their lack of payment has simply been an oversight!

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Information Chairman
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
899-0177

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MAY 1966

MRS. JAMES E. FRASER
24 OAK ST.
WESTON, MASS.

6

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1966

May 21 and May 22 2 - 5 P.M.	Inspection of new headquarters — 626 Boston Post Road
June 18	Annual Meeting of Bay State League with the Nantucket Historical Society as host. Please contact Mrs. F. Leslie Ford if interested in attending — 899-8171.
Every Wednesday 2 - 4 P.M.	Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1966, Vol. III, No. 1

Annual Meeting:

Tuesday, November 15, 1966 – 8 P.M.

In the early third of the 19th century, New England's industrial development was accelerated by the building and operation of the Middlesex Canal which extended from Boston to Lowell. Barge movement of raw materials and merchandise at the rate of 2½ miles per hour was slower than by team but the enormous loads that each barge carried brought significant savings in transportation cost.

How the Canal flourished from 1803 until 1853, when it finally succumbed to the railroads competition, is the fascinating theme of our fellow-member and Historian, Brenton H. Dickson. His lecture, which has already been delivered before various historical societies and other organizations, will be the main feature of our annual meeting in the Town House, Tuesday evening, November 15th at 8 o'clock.

The Program Committee aims at each annual meeting to present contributions of outstanding talents and knowledge by our own members. It is hoped that on November 15th there will be an even greater turn-out than the audience who so thoroughly enjoyed "Around the Cracker Barrel" a year ago — exclusively written, produced and portrayed by members headed by Mrs. Allan T. Wheeler and Mr. Henry Patterson.

A short business meeting will precede Mr. Dickson's address with a review of the year's activities, a discussion of those planned for the new year and the election of directors. Be sure to attend this worthwhile meeting and bring a new member so that another year of stimulating work may be enthusiastically launched.

Structural Soundness Important

After careful inspection of the Isaac Fiske Law Office in early June had revealed the existence of some dry-rot in the structure's underpinning, the Directors decided to postpone definite work and expense until fuller explorations are made this fall. Certainly of paramount importance is the condition of the basic structure before the Society embarks upon its plans to restore the interior for our use. We feel sure that the committee was wise in deferring extensive remodelling until it can be assured that this venerable landmark can be put into proper condition. As we go to press we are hopeful that very shortly the necessary steps will be taken so that the plans outlined in our last issue will come into being. Then will our patience be rewarded.

"That It May Live Forever"

In a recent conversation with former Park and Cemetery Commissioner, Dr. Donald Wyman of 102 Wellesley Street, we were delighted to learn that under his direction the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum Division of Harvard University has reared a healthy scion, already 6 feet tall, of the famous 250 year old Burgoyne Elm that towers over our new headquarters.

As the days of the parent elm are undoubtedly limited, Dr. Wyman has agreed to propogate for the Park Commissioners a few additional "children" that should be ready for planting in a couple of years, ensuring that "There'll always be a Burgoyne Elm in Weston." It is none too early for Weston historians to begin recommending where these scions of our noblest tree should be placed.

Thinking Aloud With Our Members

Your Society is cooperating with the Bi-Centennial Commission recently appointed by the Governor, and invites members to help us formulate plans for the commemoration 9 years hence of the 200th anniversary on April 19, 1975 of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. One of our officers has already suggested that a monument of Captain Lamson and his 102 Weston Minute Men is long overdue. Perhaps some public spirited citizens, eager to preserve and perpetuate our heritage, will soon start a movement in that direction so that dedication exercises could be held alongside the Town House during the Bi-Centennial exercises. Obviously, the monument should be placed near where the Minute Men assembled and by that time markers should be in place to trace the route our men took over Lamson Hill the morning "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" was fired. This route is shown on the map distributed by the Society during its pageant last year when we commemorated the 190th anniversary.

As the Town grows, surely our members should take the lead in suggesting ways and means of memorializing our historic past and of preserving the charm of those locations that played such an important part in the early days of the Town and Commonwealth.

The Bulletin will be glad to publicize additional suggestions. Let us all put on our thinking caps before it is "too late"!

Notes of Interest

Mr. Homer C. Lucas, retired president of Ginn & Company, has accepted the chairmanship of a committee that will study how the Society can best cooperate with Schools and community to make Weston history more meaningful to us all, young and old. Much material is being supplied by the Society's Historian, Archivist, Curator and the Research Committee. It will be augmented by further findings of our members and all will be correlated by this new committee.

* * *

The members of the Weston Historical Society are indebted to the Town Library for a gracious service. One of the Staff has inserted in each of the five library copies of the "Lamson History of Weston" the paragraph from page 6 of the May "Bulletin" containing the name of the Editor of the history, Mr. William S. Kennedy.

Keewaydin and the Telephone

The year 1965 witnessed the razing of a prominent Weston landmark, *Keewaydin,* residence of the late Francis Blake, astronomer, surveyor, physicist, photographer, inventor and a selectman in Weston for more than 20 years. Judged by Colonial New England standards, the house was not an object of beauty, yet it seemed to fit into the landscape and become an integral part of the surroundings. Great stone terraces ascended in giant steps from the Charles River valley to the eminence upon which the house stood. The southern exposure of these terraces rendered them ideal for the culture of fruit trees and vines. For nearly eighty years the house stood, a monument to an era of grandeur and elegance and to an important development in modern living of which we shall speak later. To the north of the house and across a broad sweep of rolling lawn were the stable buildings, grouped around an interior court yard. The stable constituted the central portion, while living quarters for help occupied one wing, and a theatre, a bowling alley, a squash court, a machine shop and Mr. Blake's laboratory the other.

At one time the house as well as the stable was heated by underground pipes from a common boiler room and "the estate had a complete system of water works including a reservoir holding a quarter of a million gallons, with a head of 110 feet at a fountain which rises from the pond at the base of the northwestern slope." Adjacent to the house was a sunken garden said to be similar to the one at Hampton Court, England.

The beginnings of the house date back to 1873. Over the next few years it was altered and enlarged and the grounds around it extensively developed until it became Weston's principal showpiece.

Mr. Blake's early scientific training was with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. He was associated with them for thirteen years and during that time acquired a wealth of knowledge. His survey work was extremely accurate and he made important astronomical calculations both in this country and in Europe. He was especially noted for his transatlantic longitudinal work, calculating time differences between points in the United States, England and France, and timing messages through transatlantic cables. During his last two years of service in the Coast Survey, he devoted his leisure moments to experimental physics and, soon after his resignation from the Survey, he began a series of experiments that resulted in the Blake Transmitter — a device in the telephone mouthpiece that amplified the voice to a point where it could be successfully heard over the telephone wire.

The invention of the Blake Transmitter came at a most fortunate moment for the Bell Telephone Company as illustrated in "Birth and Babyhood of the Telephone" by Thomas A. Watson. Mr. Watson, it will be remembered, was Bell's famous assistant who heard the first words ever to be transmitted by telephone.

"Professor Bell's financial problems had begun to press hard for solution," Watson wrote. "We were . . . disappointed because the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company had refused, somewhat contemptuously (to buy) all the Bell patents for the exorbitant sum of $100,000 . . . Two years later the Western Union would gladly have bought the patents for $25,000,000. But before that happy time there were lots of troubles . . . to be surmounted." Public exhibitions of the telephone had stirred up a tremendous amount of interest. "The Western Union people . . . discovered that the telephone was not such a toy as they had thought, and as our $100,000 offer was no longer open for acceptance, they decided to get a share of the business for themselves, and Edison evolved for them his carbon-button transmitter . . . (It) talked louder than the magnetos we were using and I had to work nights to get up something just as good. Fortunately for my constitution, Frank Blake came along with his transmitter. We bought it and I got a little sleep for a few days. Then our little David of a Corporation sued the big Goliath, the Western Union Company, for infringing the Bell patents."

The above is the third in a series of articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson.

Costumes and "Sacred Cows"

On Monday, October 10th, the Historical Society's rooms at the Jones House will feature a costume display open to members and guests of the Women's Community League of Weston. The occasion is the League's President's Reception and display of members hobbies. Our Curator, Mrs. James Fraser, and her hostesses, who have kept these rooms open to the public every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year, have arranged to have three rooms open instead of the usual two. This will enable them to display better the costume collection that they have created.

The Historical Society will also exhibit for the first time the two, carved oak chairs from the study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A gift from Mrs. Barbara Hudnut Boston, these chairs will eventually have a permanent home in the Society's headquarters. The following is an exerpt from a letter that Mrs. Boston recently wrote to Mr. Harold G. Travis, President of our Society, about the history of the chairs: "In piecing together my memories with actualities — I believe most of the following to be reasonably accurate. For many years my aunt, Maude Hudnut (Mrs. Robert) Chapin and her husband, were fond friends of the Doyles. When Sir Arthur lectured here he was their guest and each year they in turn would spend a week or so with the Doyles at "Windlesham", Crowborough, Sussex. A moody man, Sir Arthur would sometimes spend weeks writing in his flat at Buckingham Mansions in London proper, or at the Author's Club, Whitehall Court. These chairs flanked the fireplace in his library at "Windlesham" for several decades until the autumn of 1927 when they were crated and shipped to the Chapins as a 25th wedding anniversary present and his "Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" was published. These chairs had in turn been a wedding present to the Doyles in 1907 from a descendant of Sir Thomas Boleyn and thus a collateral descendant of Ann Boleyn, and came from his estate, "Great Fosters" in Staines, where it still stands and is a new and enormously attractive inn.

"Fully verifiable answers to many questions concerning the 'Sacred Cows' can never be forthcoming. Although quite similar, the chairs are not identical. The Chapins were as sentimental and romantic as the Doyles who breakfasted in the library when Sir Arthur was in residence — and it is possible these chairs were sent as tokens of times remembered. No one was allowed to sit in them after they reached New York and they were always said to have belonged to Ann Boleyn but it is possible they were made by forgotten hands in the time of James I — 50 years too late.

"As Sir Arthur's interest in spiritualism increased, the figures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson receded into oblivion. Lady Doyle was as devout a believer as her husband — so — if you should be ever so silent some wintry night when darkness comes early, and look in the direction of the chairs — you may see two shadowy forms waiting patiently for the morning meal to be served.

"On this note I shall take my leave — quite contented that the 'Sacred Cows' have reached their journey's end in safety."

A "Light" Episode

Weston has a nice library room, recently fitted up in the Town Hall building, with costly carpet, furniture, chandelier, and a beautiful marble tablet, bearing the names of her deceased soldiers. A charming room it is. A few evenings since, as the lighting-up hour came, the librarian proceeded to the ceremony of lighting the new chandelier in the presence of a few bystanders, and moving his steps about, — "Swingin' 'round the Circle," — as the phrase is, a gentleman suggested that it would be a more reasonable way to whirl the chandelier than to peregrinate around it. But alas, before the lamps had all been lighted and regulated, the machine, which had no swivel, was unscrewed from the ceiling and fell with an awful smash. The central shaft of the chandelier "lit" in a tin pail of eggs on the table and penetrated to a decent depth. The lamps brought up on the carpet, in "Improper Vulgar Fractions," as a school boy would say, or an example in "Short Division." The kerosene took fire, and for a few minutes there seemed to be a lively time in the room, but the kerosene did more damage than the fire.

Waltham Sentinel April 26, 1867

IN MEMORIAM

To our fellow director, Harry Patterson, Chairman of the Town's Historical Committee and of the Town's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, we extend our deepest sympathy in the great loss we all sustained during the summer in the passing of his wife, Elizabeth Nichols Patterson.

In her quiet, gracious way, Betty Patterson stood and worked for all that was good. Though gentle, she was strong. Her charm was instantly felt by all who worked with her for the good of the Town. To enumerate her many contributions would be redundant and superfluous, and the picture we'll carry in our minds and hearts most of all will be the one taken of her during our April 19, 1965 "Open House" when she wore so lithesomely the 1870 ball gown of which she was so fond.

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
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899-4515

Information Chairman
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
899-0177

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" will be available for 15c, starting with this issue. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
OCTOBER 1966

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

Annual Meeting — Town Hall — November 15, 1966 — 8:00 P.M.
Speaker: Mr. Brenton H. Dickson, a founder and director of our Society will speak on his original research on the old Middlesex Canal.

Mid-winter — Date to be announced.

3rd Annual Anniversary Dinner — Weston High School — April 11, 1967
Speaker: Mr. Roger S. Webb, president of R.A.R.E. (Relocaters of Antique Real Estate) of Cambridge, Mass.

Tour of historic spots in Duxbury — May — Date to be announced.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1967, VOL. III, NO. 2

GORE LEA

Weston Historical Society, Inc. Midwinter Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 1967 — 8 P.M. — First Parish Hall

"The Vineyard and the Tories" is the title chosen by Jean Gorely for her talk to members of the Society at its February meeting. A charter member of the Society, Mrs. Gorely will report on research that she and her husband, Charles P. Gorely Jr., have done on their pre-revolutionary house. Called "Gore Lea," their home is located at 787 Boston Post Road, not far from the 213 acre home-site of the Honorable Francis Fulham, a direct ancestor of Mr. Gorely and a founder of Weston 250 years ago.

Research in the world of antiques is not a new adventure for Mrs. Gorely. An authority on early English ceramics, she and her husband founded the Wedgewood Club, an organization designed to awaken appreciation of man's cultural heritage through the study of early ceramics, stressing quality

and relationship rather than acquisition and commercial values. Since its establishment in 1933 with Mr. Gorely as president and Mrs. Gorely as secretary, the organization has flourished and lists among its members many distinguished artists, scientists, museum directors, antiquarians and educators.

A student of Emerson, a poet, a writer of books and articles, a consultant and an interpreter, Jean Gorely is a person of greatly diversified interests. Her extensive knowledge and interest in art subjects led to a long period of correspondence with Queen Mary. Once the Queen closed a letter with the words: "It is fun to have found a kindred spirit. Sincerely yours, Mary R." After the Queen's death, a member of the royal family wrote: "I think we have all felt that your correspondence and your knowledge have combined to bring about a very delightful 'entente' between our two countries and have contributed to the enjoyment and interest of Queen Mary".

The program on February 7th will be the third one that shows how much talent we have within our own organization — the first being the play "Around the Cracker Barrel" and the second, Brenton H. Dickson's lecture on the history of the old Middlesex Canal.

Report of Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of the Weston Historical Society, Inc. held at the Weston Town House on November 15, 1966, a large and enthusiastic audience of "Canal Bugs" turned out to hear a lecture by fellow member Brenton H. Dickson on the original research done by him in connection with the Middlesex Canal of the early 19th century that ran from Boston to Lowell. A tape recording of this address has been presented to the History Department of the Weston High School.

Four directors were re-elected for another 3 years: Brenton H. Dickson, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Harold G. Travis and Harold B. Willis, Jr. Other Directors are Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, J. Kenneth Bennett, John G. Brooks, Erlund Field and Henry W. Patterson.

At the subsequent Directors meeting the following officers were re-elected: Harold G. Travis, President; Harold B. Willis, Jr., Vice President; Charles P. Gorely, Jr., 2nd Vice President; Mrs. C. V. Cooke, Corresponding Secretary; John G. Brooks, Clerk, and Harry B. Jones, Treasurer. Leonard Dowse was chairman of the Nominating Committee.

A moment of silence was observed to remember members who have died during the past year, including Mrs. Henry W. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davenport, Mr. Marshall Dwinnell, Mr. Oscar A. Schlaikjer and Mr. Stephen Thrall.

Mr. Travis discussed briefly the work of the various committees during the past year. He also announced that a boulder, unidentified until it can be properly protected, has been uncovered in the town. It bears the initial "J. D.", believed to mean James Davenport since there are documents available indicating that in 1639 Governor Winthrop and the Rev. James Davenport came up the Charles River from Boston to that point.

Some Highlights On Industrial Enterprises In Weston, Mass., from 1630

Industrial Enterprises that once Flourished in Weston.

Many of us who live in Weston may have a tendency to think that this was always primarily a residential town and that most all of its inhabitants went outside to earn their living or obtained their livelihood on farms, or taught, or operated groceries, dry goods stores, and taverns.

Col. Daniel S. Lamson in his book on the history of the town of Weston from 1630 to 1890 rightly commented that practically all early Colonial industries flourished at one time or another within the Weston boundaries — and in addition, almost every type of trade and store was operated here.

The following is a list which certainly could be called industrial enterprises in making or fashioning products to sell — not only in Weston but throughout New England and the nation as they developed.

Brewery or Malt Houses
Clock Making
Hatters
Grist Mills
Straw Braiders
Saw Mills
Machine Shops
Potteries
Wheelwrights
Shoe Making
Tanneries
Cabinet Making
Cider Mills
Organ Factories
Yarn Spinners
Cotton Machinery
Door Locks
Expanding Bits
Furniture
Plows
Pencil Sharpeners
Tailors
Men's Clothing

Each of the above enterprises undoubtedly had interesting, unusual history made by the people who founded them, operated them, and then passed them on from one generation to another. It is the hope of the Industrial Research Department of the Weston Historical Society in the months and years to come to unearth new, interesting human information that may add to our appreciation of Weston History, such as the Abraham Hews Pottery establishment started in 1765 and said to be the first of its kind in New England.

Industrial and Other Related Topics

Naturally, taxation, values of currency, and other developments since early colonial days have had great changes and it is interesting to note how Col. Lamson points out that in 1708, the first tax rate, previous to the incorporation of the town, was defined as follows:

"The Province tax for the west precinct of Watertown by assessment made September 17, 1708 by Benjamin Gearfield Pasgrave Wellington and John Warren, assessors, was 101 pounds and 12 shillings, of which only the sum of 80 pounds, 15 shillings and 6 pence was collected."

It will also be noticed that on all very old tax rates or invoices, as they were called, a column is set apart and styled "Faculty". This denoted that any person in the town meeting having a "knack" at anything or a faculty of trade wherewith he earned his livelihood, was supposed to be taxed thereon, perhaps very much in the sense of our present licenses. However, Col. Lamson points out that under this head nobody confessed to having any "Faculty" and it is to be presumed that it was not insisted upon by the assessors. Perhaps one reason for not declaring your trade was that if it were to be taxed it was just as well to keep it quiet as to how you made your living.

Until as late as 1812 the various currencies of money of the different States had different values and a dollar in sterling money was worth 4 shillings and 6 pence officially, but in the New England States it was 6 shillings to a dollar; in New York, 8 shillings: and in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland, 7 shillings and 6 pence.

The above article, written by Merton E. Williams, is the first of a series to be published in the "Bulletin" concerning the history of industrial enterprises in Weston.

Welcome to New Members

It is a pleasure to welcome the following residents of Weston into the Society: Mr. and Mrs. Bryan E. Smith, 39 Byron Road; Mr. and Mrs. George Ashley, 25 Whitney Tavern Road; Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, 22 Pelham Road; Mr. and Mrs. Owen C. Howe, Jr., 80 Wellesley Street; Mrs. Everett Schwartz, 19 Jones Road.

The President, in his Annual Report, made an appeal to each of us to try and get a new member. If that were the case, the total would be over 1000, the largest in the State! Forms may be obtained from Mr. Philip F. Coburn, 119 Church Street, Telephone 899-2236.

The Society's treasury has already been increased by over $350.00 as a result of voluntary contributions over and above the regular $2.00 membership fees.

"Puritans' Progress" by Arthur Train

Few people realize that Arthur Train, the noted author, wrote a book that was published in 1931, a complimentary copy of which is in our Weston Library. At least the first third of this book contains a lot of Weston history. Arthur Train did much of his research here where his ancestors originally made rum, ran grist mills, held public offices as surveyors and collectors, and fought in the Revolution. One became the first minister of the Baptist Church.

In his search to understand the meaning of "Puritan" he has brought out many very interesting insights into the makeup of inventories and estates, business enterprises, currency and taxation.

Don't Forget the Back of the "Bulletin"!

Each issue of the "Bulletin" has Calendar Highlights on the back page as a reminder of coming events and activities within the Society. Because of the expense of mailing cards before each meeting this is the only means other than newspaper announcements that we have of notifying members of times, dates and places. Don't miss a good program simply because you failed to mark it down on your calendar ahead of time.

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are available

Voluntary contributions to the Society are also welcomed.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

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The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
JANUARY 1967

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

February 7, 1967 8:00 P.M. First Parish Hall	Speaker: Jean Gorely, a charter member of the Society (see page 1 for details)
April 11, 1967 Weston High School	3rd Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner Speaker: Mr. Roger S. Webb, President of R.A.R.E. (Relocaters of Antique Real Estate)
May	Tour of historic spots in Duxbury (date to be announced)

Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)
Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1967, Vol. III, No. 3

3rd Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner **April 11, 1967**

Weston High School Cafeteria **6:45 P.M.**

Mr. Roger S. Webb to Address the Society on "The Preservation of our Architectural Heritage"

Another rewarding year for the Weston Historical Society has come and gone. Reservations for its annual Charter Dinner, the social highlight of the year, should be made promptly and members are urged to bring guests. It will be held on Tuesday evening, April 11th at the Weston High School Cafeteria — a tear-off form for reservations is provided in the back of this Bulletin. Please help the Committee in their planning by mailing yours today!

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Roger S. Webb, President of Architectural Heritage, Inc.. This is a non-profit corporation that stresses the importance of preserving artifacts and structures of historical interest as an important phase of telling the story of the past.

Mr. Webb is also president of R.A.R.E. (Rare Architectural Restorations Enterprise) whose function is true to its name. When we encounter a Colonial home moving down the main street of a community on rollers, we can expect that R.A.R.E. is busy again, saving another structure of historic interest from being razed. In Cambridge, the 114 year old Wells House owned by the Episcopal Theological Seminary was moved from Phillips Place to Brattle Street, and the Watson House from Russell Street to Elmwood Avenue. Both are excellent examples of early architecture and it was a real challenge to accomplish their moving in a heavily congested area. At Belmont Hill School, the "new" chapel, a handsome example of early American, Greek revival, was moved in pieces from West Thompson, Connecticut — another impressive project by R.A.R.E.. In his illustrated lecture, Mr. Webb will discuss these as well as many of their current projects.

Mrs. Reginald D. Wells and her Hospitality Committee have an excellent menu planned for the dinner. That evening they will be assisted by a group of 30 hostesses, each of whom will head up a table. This is a splendid opportunity for both old and new members and their guests to become better acquainted because everyone will be given a name tag and may sit where he wishes.

The Isaac Fiske Law Office

"As we go to press", the Selectmen advise us that under an article on the Budget for the annual Town Meeting March 27th, they plan to move that a sum of money be appropriated to include the expense of restoring this venerable, town-owned building to structural soundness. Inasmuch as our plans for occupying the house as our headquarters and for furnishing it in keeping with the year 1800 have been delayed pending such action by the Town, it is highly important that every member of our Society attend the meeting on March 27th and vote in support of the motion.

Welcome to New Members

The Society takes pleasure in welcoming the following new members who have joined since the publication of the January Bulletin: Mr. and Mrs. Graham P. Teller, 115 Brook Street, Wellesley and, from Weston, Mrs. John H. Higgins, 42 Partridge Hill Road, Mrs. Richard Campobello, 25 Westcliff Road, Mrs. Carlton W. Chamberlin, 346 South Avenue, Dr. Vera Laska, 50 Woodchester Drive, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan I. Greene, 713 Boston Post Road, Mrs. Donald W. Stowbridge, 33 Pond Brook Circle, Mr. Robert R. Hill, 30 Indian Hill Road, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. O'Toole, 449 North Avenue and Mrs. Stewart L. Chamberlin, 15 Linden Circle.

One of the surest ways of increasing the membership is the word of mouth contact by members with prospective members. One such illustration recently — Miss Mabel Burrage called Mr. P. F. Coburn, Chairman of the Membership Committee, giving him the name of an interested person. In his follow-up call to the prospective member, she said "My husband and I have lived in Weston for several years and we don't know too much about it. We are interested in learning." This is the way it should be. Keep it up. Mr. Coburn's telephone number is TWinbrook 9-2236. Membership fee is $2.00.

Two Taverns and a Tree

In the center of Weston, a few hundred feet apart on the south side of the old Boston Post Road, stand three notable landmarks of individual character and historic interest. Coming toward Boston on the old stage coach route from New York and Pennsylvania, one glimpses first the stately Golden Ball Tavern, widely accepted in Colonial days as an important rallying point for the Loyalists or "Tories".

Approaching Central Cemetery beyond, one sees the venerable "Burgoyne Elm", now at least 240 years old, under whose branches on October 7, 1777, General Glover of the Continental Army quartered ovrenight a company of prisoners, captured while under the command of General Burgoyne at the "Saratoga Convention". How appropriate it is that today the 1795 law office building of Isaac Fiske stands on the same spot to be used as the headquarters of our Society.

Finally a few hundred yards beyond, and facing the Town Green, is the old Josiah Smith Tavern ("The Jones House") that through the same period became known as a friendly gathering place for the "Patriots". Today, in four of its rooms, it houses a rare collection of historic items that have been donated or entrusted to our Society.

In forthcoming issues of The Bulletin, we plan to tell more about each of these treasured landmarks and of the people who tarried there, — beginning now with The Golden Ball Tavern.

The Golden Ball Tavern

"We stopped at a tavern at the sign of the golden ball with an intention to get a drink and so proceed; but upon our going in the landlord pleased us so much. . . . that we resolved to lye there that night." So reads an account of two scouts, disguised as surveyors, who had been sent out from Boston by General Gage to travel to Worcester, taking sketches of the country they went through and making geographical observations.

Today, passing the ancient landmark in its tranquil setting, it is hard to visualize the excitement and plotting that went on within those walls nearly two centuries ago. Isaac Jones, a noted Tory, kept the tavern in Revolutionary times and there he frequently entertained General Gage and other British officers who came out for supper parties and convivial gatherings. No doubt he supplied these gentlemen with pertinent information as to rebel activities in the neighborhood, giving the gatherings a double significance.

Isaac Jones also kept a store, probably the oldest in Weston, and it stood to the east of the tavern. It has been said that this store did the most extensive business outside of Boston in drygoods, groceries, liquor, etc., and that it supplied taverns for many miles around with rum and molasses. Isaac also carried on a banking business of considerable magnitude and his credit rated high in Boston.

In spite of all this he was considered a dangerous and obstinate opponent to the cause of liberty. In the Worcester Convention of January 1775 he was denounced as follows: "*Resolved* that it is earnestly recommended to all the inhabitants of this county, not to have any commercial transactions with Isaac Jones, but to shun his house and person and to treat him with the contempt he deserves."

In April of that same year General Gage, planning to seize rebel arsenals before they became dangerously large, sent spies out again to estimate the preparedness of the countryside. One of these, John Howe, came through Weston. He first stopped at the Josiah Smith Tavern in the center where his accent betrayed his nationality and he was persuaded to move on to the more friendly atmosphere of the Golden Ball. However, word of his presence spread and a group of townsmen organized to seize him and subject him to the tar and feather treatment. By the time they arrived at the tavern, Howe had escaped to the house of Dr. Wheaton, another Tory, who lived in a more remote section of town. (The present Elwell house). Howe's report of this and other examples of unfriendliness along the way was a determining factor in General Gage's decision to attack Concord and fire "the shot heard 'round the world" there instead of Weston.

Isaac continued to run his tavern and store, still adhering to his principles even though days were becoming cloudier for the loyalist. After the British had been defeated in the Battle of Bennington, Paul Revere (August 1777), with a fairly sizable contingent, marched to Worcester to take charge of prisoners captured in that battle. He breakfasted at the Golden Ball Tavern and then went on to Sudbury where he received a letter from Mrs. Jones complaining that her store had been broken into and twelve loaves of sugar stolen, each weighing about seven pounds. She accused Revere's soldiers of the theft but a search of their packs revealed nothing. Revere, in his report, stated that he suspected the Joneses stole the sugar themselves; — it belonged to the government and they were Tories. Moreover, he continued, while at the Jones tavern the pocket of Captain Todd's servant was picked and two dollars taken from it.

In October 1777 General Glover escorted a contingent of General Burgoyne's troops, captured at the Saratoga Convention, to prison in Somerville. They travelled along Weston's main street and bivouacked under the great elm which, in memory of this occasion, became known as the "Burgoyne Elm" and which is still standing.

The less fortunate soldiers and their prisoners were forced to sleep out in the cold but the officers, both British and American, were given rooms in the taverns. One British officer (Thomas Anburey) wrote of the Golden Ball, "In Westown . . . we found the most convenient inn of any on the road; — it is equal to most in England, the rooms commodious, provisions good, and servants attentive; above all, the landlord is a friend of our government and like all of that description has been much persecuted. He was not without his apprehension of being sent to prison for attention shewn to officers who stopped at his house, which was nothing more than the common civility he shewed to all his guests; in short he was deemed by the Americans a rank Tory."

With the Revolution out of the way, Isaac seems to have put his shoe on the other foot and in 1781 we find him working on the side of the Americans and helping Lafayette. An agreement dated Dec. 8, 1781 states that "Isaac Jones will supply sufficient carriage to convey the King's (French) stores to Poughkeepsie. . . . " this to be done at his own expense and risk at an agreed rate per pound and per mile.

The Golden Ball Tavern was built in 1750-52. The original building, nearly square, had two chimneys and a large central hallway extending from the front to the rear. There were also two side entrances each with a small vestibule, occupying the space between the chimney and the outside wall. All four rooms on the first floor could be entered either from a vestibule or from the front hall. Upstairs there were four bedrooms and a small office with a miniature fireplace. The partition between the southwest chamber and the front hall was hinged at the top so that it might be hooked up to convert the space into a ballroom. A similar partition is found in the "Reeves Tavern" in Wayland.

The west ell, although added at a later date, is probably older than the main building. It originally stood near the foot of Highland Street and was used by Dr. Gowen as an office and apothecary shop. Dr. Gowen, it will be remembered, was the father of Hannah who received a kiss from George Washington as he passed through town.

Whether the Golden Ball Tavern was built as a tavern or a residence is, at the moment, a matter for conjecture. The large, typical fireplace in the tap room, the small office upstairs and the swinging partition support the former theory; the expensive detail of the paneling and turnings in the front hall, the latter. Perhaps such elegance is not out of order when one considers the prosperity of early Weston taverns; in fact, many of the larger houses dating back to the latter eighteenth century are said to have served as taverns at one time or another. For many years the main road through town was the most important thoroughfare in the east, connecting Boston with Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania as well as New Hampshire and Vermont. It became a principal stagecoach route, and taverns where horses could be exchanged and travelers entertained, were a necessity. Added to this was an enormous amount of teaming from up country as well as large droves of cattle and hogs constantly passing over our roads — all of which contributed to the prosperity of our numerous taverns. Besides, Weston was an important trading center and people found it more convenient to stop here and trade rather than take the long circuitous trip to Boston. As there was no bridge across the Charles River, Boston was reached either through Cambridge on the north or Roxbury on the south.

During the early nineteenth century tavern business fell off drastically and in 1828 the Josiah Smith Tavern, the last survivor, became a private residence. Among the factors contributing to the death of the taverns might be mentioned the construction of the Worcester Turnpike (now Route 9) in 1805 which diverted long distance stagecoaching away from the Post Road; the advent of the railroad which rapidly superseded the stagecoach as a mode of transportation; and, finally, restriction on the sale of liquor which at the same time restricted the merriment afforded by the taverns. The Golden Ball ceased being a hostelry near the turn of the century although Isaac Jones lived on until 1813. His heirs continued to occupy the old house until 1963 when Ralph Jones, the last of a long line, died at the age of 82.

The above is the fourth in a series of articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson.

"Burgoyne Elm" Wood to be Made into Souvenirs

Recently it was necessary for the Town's Tree Warden to order the removal of one limb from the historic "Burgoyne Elm", now over 240 years old. Happening upon the scene with our fellow member and local artist, Mr. Henry W. Longfellow, our President arranged for the limb to be sawed into lengths that were then carefully hidden until such time as arrangements could be made for carrying out some of the ideas that quickly came to mind. Within 48 hours, Mr. Longfellow brought forth several rough samples and sketches of souvenir articles such as bookends, paper weights, candlesticks, etc. that could be made from properly seasoned elmwood.

Conferences with Mr. Duncan, head of Industrial Arts at the Senior High School, and with his contemporary, Mr. Green of the Junior High School, quickly evolved a project whereby their students will create for the Weston Historical Society a number of such objects that can be sold for the benefit of the Society's work. It is proposed that annual awards should be made by the Society to those students who thus contribute their imagination, creativeness, skill and awareness of Weston history in the most outstanding way. It can now be noted that just before the snowstorm of February 7th, seven huge logs, varying in diameter from 26″ to 34″ from this one limb, 100′ in length, were safely transported to Sherborn, Massachusetts. There they were sawed into planks of 1″, 1½″ and 2″ thicknesses and into 3″ x 4″ billets for wood-turning. February 20th they were brought back to Weston where they are now securely stored for seasoning under proper cover. The wood should be ready to be worked approximately one year from now.

"Gore Lea" History Highlights Winter Meeting

Blizzards and power shortage may occasionally postpone but never cancel our scheduled meetings. When the storm of February 7th paralyzed the community for a day or two, the meeting scheduled for that date was held on Wednesday evening, February 15th, before an enthusiastic and appreciative group of members and their guests in the spacious hall of the First Parish Church. With her characteristic charm and clarity, Jean Gorely (Mrs. Charles P., Jr.) gave a remarkable review of the history of this venerable and historic mansion. Her talk was not only interesting and entertaining but also an inspiration to her hearers, many of whom gained great insight into the steps that are involved in tracing past and remote records. As a charter member of the Society, she gave our Research Committee great impetus, and it is hoped that similar presentations of other old houses in Weston will be forthcoming. We are deeply indebted to Jean Gorely for sharing with us the results of her years of painstaking research. For restoring and preserving "Gore Lea" and for loving it as they do, Mr. and Mrs. Gorely deserve the thanks of us all.

New Appointments

President Harold G. Travis has announced the following new appointments: Mrs. James E. Fraser as Chairman of the Archives Committee, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod as Chairman of the Curator Committee, Mrs. Reginald Wells as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee and Mrs. Raymond Paynter as head of newspaper publicity. Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and Mrs. Harold G. Travis have been appointed by the Curator as co-chairmen of a committee to supervise the redecoration of the interior of the Isaac Fiske Law Office.

Recent Gifts to the Society

Three of our charter members have recently presented to the Society articles of unusually significant interest and value. Mr. Henry W. Longfellow has written that "if it is agreeable, my wife and I would be pleased to present to the Society the painting of the Burgoyne Elm now on display at the Weston branch of the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Company. Mr. Richard Lincoln, a vice-president of the bank, has been informed to see that if and when the Society wishes to have the painting he will be pleased to see that the Society receives it."

In memory of her husband, Mr. Frank S. Owen, his widow has donated a "Deacon's Bench" and a trestle table. These pieces were acquired by her husband many years ago and are in excellent condition. They are approximately six feet in length and the former is featured by a series of attractive stencils. At present they are on display at the Historical Society's rooms in the Jones House.

Also at the Jones House is a cross section, measuring 32" in diameter, of the famous George Washington - Hannah Gowen Pine Tree. This was transferred to us by Mr. John B. Paine, Jr. from his parent's home on Highland Street (the original site of the General Marshall House). Attached to it is the following framed description of its history as written by the donor on March 23, 1930:

"In October 1789, General George Washington, President of the United States, proposed a journey to the New England states which he had not visited since the evacuation of Boston by the British army. He travelled in his own carriage drawn by four horses, and was accompanied by Mr. Lear and Major Jackson, his secretaries, and six servants on horseback. Notice was given in Boston that the president would reach Weston on October 23rd. He passed the night at the Flagg Tavern*, now the residence of Mr. Emerson, and while at Weston he wrote Governor Hancock accepting an invitation to dinner the next day. On the morning of October 24th he was waited upon by the inhabitants of the Town, and Colonel Marshall* welcomed him in an address after which the notables of the Town were presented to him.

"It was while in Weston that Washington kissed Hannah Gowen, then a child, and it was for her a matter of great pride and glory as long as she lived. This tree was said to have been planted at that time to commemmorate this incident, and a check of its age apparently bears this out.

"The tree blew down in May 1923 and was cut up, including this section, in May 1924. The tree stood a few feet off Highland Street opposite Hannah Gowen's house of which only the cellar hole remains on the left hand side of the road facing Central Avenue and about halfway between that and Chestnut Street.

"The Flagg Tavern of which only the chimneys are standing, was destroyed by fire November 6, 1902. It was for many years the principal stopping place for the New York mail coaches, and President John Adams also stopped there.

"The hill behind the site of the Gowen House on Highland Street is known as Sanderson's Hill upon which, during the Revolution, a beacon light

was established, Jonas Sanderson being its keeper. General Sullivan speaks of this beacon light in his memoirs as a connecting light uniting his command in Rhode Island with Boston, the town of Watertown, including what is now Waltham, Weston, Lincoln, and part of Concord.

"Halfway up Highland Street on the site of our present house stood the old *Marshall House* confiscated by the government after the War of the Revolution, and later bought by Colonel Thomas Marshall, great uncle of General James F. B. Marshall, who after service in the Revolutionary War, came here to live. It was later owned by William M. Roberts who in 1867 sold it to General Charles J. Paine. In 1882 it was moved from its former location to its present site on Church Street by Charles H. Fiske who now owns and occupies it.

"Hannah Gowen died May 23, 1870 at the age of 95 years and 8 months. She is said to have been very fond of skunks and to have kept several as pets in a closet of her house, and it may possibly have been a grandchild of one of these that took up its abode inside the famous tree during the year that it was lying on the ground."

J. P. B. Jr. March 23, 1930

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* Washington himself is said by many to have spent the night with Colonel Marshall in his house on Highland Street. Reference: D. S. Lamson's History of the Town of Weston 1630-1890.

Projects with Schools Take Shape

Cooperation between the Society and the schools of the Town was gratefully noted by the President at the mid-winter meeting when he cited several recent instances of coordinated effort along historical lines. Through the courtesy of the High School, copies of Mr. Dickson's address at our November meeting on the Old Middlesex Canal were made by pupils in Miss Thelma Hoyle's Commercial Department from the tapes that are being played to the History classes of Mr. William Holman in the Senior High School. In time, the Dickson lecture will be published as one in a series envisioned by our special Committee on Publications which is headed by Mr. Homer Lucas.

Our Society is also working with Mr. Holman and his associates on an archaeological project being planned in Weston under a recent $4000 grant from the Society of the Cincinnati. Through our associate director of Research, Merton E. Williams, we are glad to help guide the muscles and brains of our younger generation in this stimulating and significant project.

Society Members Invited to Visit Waltham Home

Mrs. Clinton Jackson, 244 Weston Street, Waltham, a guest at the winter meeting of the Society, has invited any interested Westonians to visit her home. She is the owner of a 1750 house in whose dining room has been uncovered an ancient mural that pictures what is perhaps the alleged hanging of a Tory in Weston, then a part of Watertown (as was Waltham). This may well be another field of exploration for our research-minded members, especially owners of old houses along the same Boston Post Road who themselves, by careful delving, might uncover similar murals. Such murals were presumably painted by an itinerant artist from Saugus late in the 18th century.

Charter Anniversary Dinner – *April 11, 1967*

Reservations $3.50 per person, not later than April 3rd.

Please make checks payable to The Weston Historical Society, Inc.

(If you have not yet paid your 1967 dues, you may enclose payment with this reservation slip).

MR. HARRY B. JONES, Treasurer
448 Concord Road, Weston, Mass. 02193

Please reserve.....places at $3.50 each for —

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Cut off and mail

— —

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are available

Voluntary contributions to the Society are also welcomed.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Information Chairman
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones
899-0177

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MARCH 1967

MR. & MRS. HAROLD G. TRAVIS
SADDLEHILL RD.
WESTON, MASS.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Calendar Highlights

(Please save the dates)

1967

April 8 Bay State League meeting at Lawrence on invitation from the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.
For details call Mrs. F. Leslie Ford at 899-8171.

April 11 3rd Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner.
6:45 P.M. — Weston High School Cafeteria.
Speaker: Mr. Roger S. Webb, President of R.A.R.E..

May 10 Morning trip to Sharon, Mass. to visit the Kendall Whaling Museum.
(Details to be announced at Charter Dinner).
Open House at the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)
Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MAY 1967, VOL. III, NO. 4

The Isaac Fiske Law Office 'Neath The Elm!

RESTORATION: PERSPIRATION: CONSUMMATION!

OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS

On Monday morning, May 1st, two experienced men, skilled in restoration, started to repair the deteriorated underpinnings of this 170 year old landmark that stands along the Boston Post Road underneath the venerable Burgoyne Elm in Weston. Three Friday afternoons later their work was done, the lawn re-seeded, and two manly scions of the parent elm were brought from their nursery on the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum where they had been raised from the sacred seed, and replanted a few feet west of their proud and majestic mother. So "There'll always be a Burgoyne Elm", and it will be interesting to watch the two babies start in our lifetime to emulate the noble example of their mother. May they too for three centuries spread their graceful arms above this historic road.

Now that the exterior of the Law Office has been restored, we members have the exciting and rewarding task of refinishing the interior ourselves and of furnishing it in the character of the early 19th Century office that for so many eventful years witnessed many a transaction between his clients and Mr. Isaac Fiske, great, great grandfather of two of our directors, Brenton Dickson and Harold B. Willis, Jr., seventh generation descsendants of one of Weston's oldest families.

Under the supervision of Mr. F. Leslie Ford, a series of consecutive Volunteer Saturdays commencing September 9th will enlist hundreds of our members in the task of refinishing the interior. In each room a card will be displayed to indicate what jobs are required, such as removing wall paper, paint, and stain, refinishing floors and woodwork, applying new wall paper and paint, and certain carpentry and fixture work. While this is happening at the hands of happy volunteers, assignments on the projected bulb garden and grounds will occupy others. The Hospitality Committee promises to supply coffee and doughnuts for the restoration and preservation of energy and enthusiasm.

By Saturday October 1st, a handsome sign reading "Weston Historical Society Headquarters" in old lettering will have been erected in front of the building on the lawn that was seeded May 22nd, and Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Harold G. Travis, co-chairmen of the Refurnishing Committee, will set out with volunteer assistance from the membership to decorate and furnish the interior. A list will be posted of articles that are desired. Already we have a portrait of Isaac Fiske, his original, stand-up desk, a Deacon's Bench for the waiting room, the two Conan Doyle pre-1750 carved oak chairs, an ancient bottle found underneath the chimney recently, and other relics of the restored house's under-pinnings.

A number of small country law offices were erected in Massachusetts during the latter part of the 18th Century, and very few remain. Of similar and simple design, each had a small entrance hall opposite a large central chimney with a single room and fireplace on each side. The Isaac Fiske Law Office was built about 1797 by Artemus Ward who shared it briefly with Alpheus Bigelow who later built his own, a prototype, just across the line in Wayland. Ward took Isaac Fiske, fresh from Law School, as a partner, and when the former left Weston, Fiske became sole proprietor and practised law in Weston for over thirty years. He served as Town Clerk from 1805 to 1826 and was Register of Probate of Middlesex County for a number of years.

Welcome To New Members

It is a pleasure to welcome the following residents of Weston into the Society: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Simms, 17 Loring Road and Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Coburn, 171 Church Street.

Demand for back copies of "THE BULLETIN", *particularly the January and May 1966 issues, has depleted our supply. Please call Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, 899-0177, if you can help us locate extra copies.*

The Burgoyne Elm

The story of the Burgoyne Elm on the Post Road goes far beyond its shadow. This great tree has spanned the years between Revolutionary times and the present, standing today as a symbol of liberty and a memorial to an important epoch in the history of our country.

The "Saratoga Convention", as the British preferred to call it, marked a turning point in the American Revolution. General Burgoyne was defeated by General Gates at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. Under the Convention, the captured soldiers were technically not prisoners and were to be returned to Europe on the condition that they would never fight in North America again. First, however, they must be taken to Somerville and quartered, pending embarkation. The job of escorting them there was given to General Glover of Marblehead and three weeks later bells pealed in Cambridge, cannons roared, and large crowds gathered to stare at the hordes of prisoners as General Glover trotted into town with General Burgoyne at his side — the footsore and weary army at their heels. Although a prisoner, General John Burgoyne, with his colorful and dynamic personality, had been responsible for much of the misery and the glamour of the march!

The destruction left in the wake of these great hordes of undisciplined troops and prisoners was considerable. They burned fences, destroyed hay, grain and flax, and robbed houses. In every town visited, two or three companies were forming to join General Washington's army and some prisoners escaped from the cavalcade to enlist in the American army, having been persuaded to do so by people they met along the way.

Little or no effort was ever made to find sleeping quarters for the soldier prisoners. Officers, however, fared better. An officer might ride on ahead, pose as General Burgoyne, and have the best quarters in town assigned to him. There he would receive other British officers when they arrived. The German prisoners were more fortunate too. Baron Riedesel, who had been assisting the British, took his responsibilities more seriously than Generals Glover and Burgoyne and, instead of having himself a whirl, traveled with his men for the better part of the journey, making every effort to provide them with food and shelter whenever possible.

During the march from Saratoga, General Glover was derelict in his duties — dazzled by his social contacts with the two enemy generals, Burgoyne and Riedesel, he put personal pleasure ahead of military responsibilities. Instead of supervising his soldiers and prisoners as they were starting off on their long march, he and Riedesel rode to Albany to attend a dinner party at the mansion of General Schuyler. General Burgoyne was also there and General Phillips, it being customary for British and American officers to attend the same functions. Glover found the Schuyler table and wine cellar very much to his liking and remained for nearly a week.

Meanwhile the soldiers and their captives met with untold hardships as they pressed on towards Worcester. They took two days crossing the Taconic Range in a heavy snowstorm. The roads were nearly impassible and the carts kept breaking down or getting stuck, "horses tumbling with their loads of baggage, men cursing, women shrieking and children squalling." At one point a child was born in a baggage cart with nothing to shelter the mother from the weather but an old oil cloth.

It was not until the 22nd of October that General Glover sent a letter from Albany advising his officers "I shall come tomorrow with Gen'l Burgoyne. Expect to be in Worster in ten days." General Whipple of New Hampshire had been assigned the job of escorting Burgoyne to Boston and there was really no need for General Glover to remain behind. But the glamour of it all went to his head. Burgoyne was entertained at all the fine houses along the way and this appealed greatly to the American General. Although a wit and a brilliant conversationalist, Burgoyne also had his weak moments. Baroness Riedesel, somewhat disgusted with his irresponsibility, writes of an earlier experience when "Burgoyne caroused half the night, . . . hilarious with champagne and caressing the wife of a commissary who was his mistress . . . While (he) was enjoying his champagne and choice food the army suffered the keenest want." All of this seems to be characteristic not only of the military but of certain people in high office to this very day.

On November 4th, Glover in company with Generals Burgoyne and Phillips, overtook Baron Riedesel in Worcester. The Baron had left the Schuyler festivities early and rejoined his German troops at Kinderhook to accompany them on the remainder of the march. They all arrived at "Westtown" on the 6th. The British officers went to the Golden Ball Tavern and the Americans to Baldwin's Tavern while the troops and prisoners bivouacked where best they could — many of them in the shelter of the Burgoyne Elm but certainly not all as they numbered in the thousands. Several days elapsed before order and cleanliness could be restored in Weston.

The march from Weston to Cambridge was most unpleasant as it rained incessantly. The wife of a Harvard professor wrote when they arrived "I never had the least idea that creation produced such a sordid set of creatures in human figure. Poor, dirty, emaciated men, great numbers of women who seemed to be the beasts of burthen, having a bushel basket on their back by which they were bent double. The contents seemed to be pots and kettles, various sorts of furniture, children peeping through gridirons and other utensils . . . (and) some very young infants who were born on the road."

What lay behind them was grim — what lay ahead of them hardly any better. Suddenly providing food and quarters for over 3500 prisoners posed a problem of considerable magnitude. The inadequate barracks were dilapidated, unclean and poor protection against the approaching New England winter. Some of the higher officers were given rooms in private houses, but, with sentiment what it was, their life proved to be no bed of roses. Other officers went to Bradish's Tavern and the privates trudged on to their miserable, unfurnished barracks in Somerville where there was a "prodigious scarcity of fuel, insomuch that we were obliged to cut down the rafters of our roof to dry ourselves." As many as six officers were sharing rooms less than twelve feet square with only a pile of straw for a bed, and, said General Burgoyne, "without Distinction of Rank", infinitely more disturbing to his way of thinking than lack of blankets and firewood which he didn't mention in his complaint.

In contrast to these squalid conditions, an elegant dinner was given by General Heath for Burgoyne and some of his officers the day after their arrival in Cambridge. "Before the dinner was done," General Heath wrote, "so great was the curiosity of the citizens of both sexes and all ages and descriptions to get a peep at General Burgoyne, that the streets were filled,

the doors, windows, the tops of houses and fences were crowded." With the population suddenly doubled, the town became overloaded and shortages acute. Even without this extra burden, the food situation was substandard. The streets swarmed with humanity demanding better accommodations and worrying the citizenry no end.

Weston, though it had felt the bad effects of a temporary surge in population during the single night's bivouack, got off easily compared with Cambridge and Somerville where bedlam prevailed for some time.

Brenton H. Dickson

IN MEMORIAM

Until her death on March 15, 1967, Rebecca McKenna, charter member and Archivist of our Society, gave "the last full measure of devotion" to the entire Weston community. Her articulate memories of the good old days, blended with contagious enthusiasm for the preservation of the Town's inherent beauty and history. Her contributions were constant and below we gratefully print the last article she wrote for "The Bulletin" shortly before her death.

Fire-Fighters, circa 1900

At forty cents an hour, the high school boys of more than fifty years ago ably served in the Weston Fire Department. Three young men, John Guthrie and Edward S. Coburn of Kendal Green and Edward C. Green, Jr. of the present Post Road, were among those faithful and intrepid fire fighters, and when, one morning the fire alarm rang, they were at the ready.

Studying in the main room of the High School, they each shot a glance at the principal, Charles M. Eaton, seated on the platform, and at his nod of approval, out they rushed. As soon as the fire was put out the youths trooped back to school, one of them to deep dismay. Up to that day Ed Coburn had had perfect high school attendance, to the boy a matter of pride, and he was hopeful that his temporary absence would not affect his record.

He and Mr. Eaton pondered long, counting the minutes Ed had been present, even squeezing the seconds, and for a fleeting moment it seemed that he was safe, but a final careful count revealed that he had not been present the full half day required, and had to take defeat.

On another occasion he was attending church when the alarm rang once, then twice. He was sitting in the choir loft of the church which had a stairway leading to the street, but, ignoring the stairs, Ed ran to a window beside the organ and, with a push from the boy who pumped the organ, he jumped through the window and leaped to the ground.

When his mother gently chided him for leaving a church service, he said, "But Mother, it was the second alarm and that meant that a dwelling house was on fire, and it might have been our own."

Rebecca McKenna

Ed. Note: Mr. Coburn and Mr. Green are present members of the Weston Historical Society. Mr. Guthrie is no longer living.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MAY 1967

Furnishings for New Headquarters Urgently Needed

As our activity steadily accelerates, many articles that our modest Treasury cannot afford, are sorely needed. Priceless records and valuables should be kept safe and in good condition. We already have a safe generously donated by Merton H. Williams. One other great immediate need is a 4 drawer steel, fireproof file cabinet that can be locked. Does anyone feel inclined and able to contribute at least one? The value of all gifts to the Society is "tax-deductible"! Come fall, we'll have a larger list for the Law Office, but begin thinking now about more display cases, an old fashioned foot scraper for the granite front steps, and anything appropriate for an early 19th Century law office such as quill pens, map of the then current United States of America "West of Dedham", etc., etc., etc. Quickly now, who was President in 1800 and who has a portrait of him?

Extra copies of "The Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Editor.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1967, Vol. IV, No. 1

Restoration Underway!

The lady volunteers who were stripping wallpaper from the walls of the Isaac Fiske Law Office, our new headquarters at 626 Boston Post Road, had their animated conversation interrupted on September 20th by uproarious laughter from the step ladder outside. Peering out, they asked the husband who was painting the exterior with another coat of donated paint "What's the matter with you?" "Ho! Ho!," he guffawed, "All of a sudden I said to myself, what kind of a deal is this? While I'm wielding this brush as a labor of love, think of those painters who are getting $20.00 an hour of my money painting my house at the beach while I am doing this for nothing!" That is the spirit, though, that makes Weston such a wonderful town. Taxes may be high, but how much higher they would be if we didn't have hundreds of citizens giving of their talents and time to civic work.

More volunteers are needed at the Law Office to help sand floors, remove paint and wallpaper and do other things scheduled for this fall in order to restore this charming building to its early character. Just telephone Leslie Ford at 899-8171 and tell him what you can do — he will have a job for you! Many are already working during the week and some are giving a few hours each weekend. The two original rooms have cards posted to show what needs to be done and Mr. Ford's committee will show you how. Let's have every member give a little of his or her time to this work so that before snow falls, the restoration will be a transformation of lasting value and significance.

Mrs. J. Herbert Lawson has recently given 9 chairs which will be used for meetings held at the Law Office. Other gifts that will fit into the early 19th century period of the building are needed and will be gratefully accepted.

The Burgoyne Elm

August 15, 1967 was a sad day. After almost 300 years of stately life, the Burgoyne Elm had its limbs and all but 20 feet of its majestic trunk removed. It is planned to cap the top of the trunk with a protective covering so that this relic of yesteryear will stand alongside our headquarters for years to come.

Welcome to New Members

The following residents of Weston have recently joined the Society: Mr. and Mrs. A. Stuart Hunter, 120 Summer Street and Mrs. L. B. McConaghy, 15 Eliot Lane.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Notice of Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 1967 – 8 p.m.

Following a short business meeting, Mr. Howard Gambrill, a charter member of the Society, will speak to us on "Chasing Paul Revere." A local historian of note, he has devoted himself to the task of locating and interpreting documents pertaining to the Golden Ball Tavern and to the seven generations of Jones who lived there. We applaud all that the Gambrills have done to revitalize the family of a practical Tory and their efforts to preserve an historic landmark.

In our beginning, a "Jones was here," for at the Town Meeting on March 2, 1746, James was chosen as one of three members of the committee for the First Precinct of Weston. The land on which his Golden Ball Tavern was situated comprised eighty-five acres to the south and to the east of what is now the Post Road and Highland Street. Much of it is in our town cemetery, but the Jones story is by no means buried there.

This tale of adventure will be brought back to life in the "chasing" to be added to the Paul Revere legend. Members and interested guests are invited to hear about it after the Annual Meeting to be held at the Country School at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14th.

Town and Gown

Two developments of active Town and Gown relationship augur well for accelerated research into Weston History.

Under their teacher, Dr. Vera Laska, a member of our society, 17 history majors at Regis College are preparing theses on the following subjects: Archives of Weston, Weston Library, The Town Crier, The Josiah Smith Tavern (Jones House), Weston Historical Committees and Our Society, Clubs and Groups of Weston, Regis College, Memories of Old-Timers, Golden Ball Tavern, Weston in International Life, The Police Department, Oldest Houses, Women's Community League, Churches of Weston, Cemeteries and Parks, The Saga of Sergeant Howe, and The Weston School System. Each student needs a local member as sponsor and advisor for suggestions as to where she should go, whom to see and what to search. Dr. Laska, 237-1447, will welcome your volunteer suggestions.

Simultaneously, another fellow member, Mr. William Hollman, Curriculum Director of the Weston Public School History Department, is introducing an archaeological project into the curriculum under a grant from The Society of the Cincinnati. Initial plans call for digging, under adult supervision, at one of several prospective sites by his students including the grounds of the ancient Hewes Pottery Works, the Whitney Tavern now in the process of restoration, and the cellar holes of two old houses.

The activity and interest of our younger generation in these fields deserve the fullest co-operation any of us can render. It should be so mutually stimulating and rewarding that such projects can become a steady feature of our daily community life.

Woes of a Researcher

"My dear Mr. Lamson —

I wish I had been of royal birth, and then my family records would have been officially taken care of . . . the answers to some of your questions bother me in two ways — First, because I can't read your writing, in some cases, and second because I don't know what to say — I can read that you have "dug up" the Strattons, but who the next ones to be resurrected are I don't understand —

You say you wouldn't sleep nights until you found your grandfather (I guess you wouldn't if you did find him). My grandfather is all right, but it's my *great*-grandfather who is missing. . . . They say it is a wise child that knows its own father, but I begin to think it is a *wiser* who knows its own *grandfather*. I have examined your records and feel you haven't 'got *us*' yet. . . .

I am beginning to get interested in my own account and if we should have a fair warm day I believe I shall set out in search of my ancestors. I am not sure, I think my *great*-grandfather may have been buried in the old burying ground in Weston. Perhaps if the *living* can't give us any information, the *dead* may.

Yours truly (until heard from again)

Emma W. Gale '90"

(*Ed. note — the excerpts above are from two letters written to Col. Lamson by Mrs. Emma Gale, great-grandmother of Mrs. George Foote of Weston and grandmother of Mrs. S. Abbott Smith, now of Boston.*)

Was Weston Once a City Established by the Norsemen?

When you buy the historical map of Weston that will be published by the Society in late October, you won't find the answer to the above question but you will learn a lot about the documented history of our town. The map is artistically beautiful and historically sound. On its reverse side, the descriptive material, complete with illustrations, and written by Brenton H. Dickson in his own inimitable style, is, of necessity, a capsule version of the 254 years that have transpired since Weston was incorporated as a Town. Mr. Dickson, however, has included an introductory paragraph entitled "Early Weston" that will certainly make all readers realize that the true history of Weston began well before 1713.

In the Fall of 1966 a committee headed by Mr. Homer C. Lucas was appointed to achieve a closer relationship between the work of the Society and the needs of the many schools in Weston in teaching students the history of our town. For its first project, the committee, composed of Mr. Brenton H. Dickson, Mr. William A. Hollman, Curriculum Director for Social Studies in the Weston Public Schools, Mrs. H. Eugene Jones and Mrs. John L. Kronenberg has created an historical map of Weston. This map includes descriptive material about its taverns, industries, schools etc.

The maps will be on sale for 50¢ each at the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Company in Weston Center and at the Jones House during the hours that the Society keeps it open each week. On the current dues notice members will have an opportunity to designate how many copies they wish to order and these will be delivered to them. The various schools in town are interested in purchasing maps for distribution to students in history courses, and visitors to the area will welcome them as souvenir items.

A Musical Treat

Members of the Weston Historical Society are urged to give their fullest support to the piano concert by our famous fellow-townsman Arthur MacKenzie, at the High School Auditorium on October 20th. You have all received invitations from the Golden Ball Tavern Keepers and a full house is anticipated. Don't delay in getting your tickets.

The proceeds of this concert will go into an endowment fund that will ensure the perpetuation of the Golden Ball Tavern — a landmark that is a vital part of Weston's growing historical image.

Additional Funds Urgently Needed by the Society

With such a lively program, now augmented by the expense of restoring and maintaining the Fiske Law Office, the Board decided at its September 13th meeting not to raise our nominal dues at this time but to ask all members to make an additional voluntary contribution, as they did last year, and to get their neighbors and friends to join also.

The cost of Bulletin, Program, Hall Rentals, Printing and Postage, plus restoring, furnishing, and maintaining the Law Office, approximates $3,000 per year. Obviously only 600 members at $2 each will not suffice, so your active and generous support will be most welcome. We urge each member to get a new member and to support our work to the full. In case you're in doubt as to whether or not the person you have in mind is already a member, just call our Secretary, Mrs. C. V. Cooke, 893-0950. By year's end, with such cooperation, we should have 1,000 members. All checks should be payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. and mailed to Harry B. Jones, Treasurer, 448 Concord Road, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Random Notes from The Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern)

As in the past, the Historical Society rooms will be open on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4. Mrs. McLeod, Curator, urges that more members take advantage of the displays to be seen, and visit more frequently with their children and guests.

The Curator and the Archivist, Mrs. Fraser, are planning an afternoon in the Spring when members' collections of blue Canton, pink lustre, rose medallion china, pewter etc. will be shown. Anyone interested in participating in this exhibition should contact Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, 893-0406.

Thanks have been given to Mrs. Russell of the Russell Florists in Wayland for contributing the geraniums used on the doorstep of the Jones House during the summer.

The next time you are in the Ball Room, cast your eyes on the 1800 grand piano donated by Mr. J. H. Weeks of Newton. The mahogany and rosewood, the 43 ivory keys and the heavy turned legs are in excellent condition. It is under our protective care and will be used only on historic occasions.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

OCTOBER 1967

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor, 899-0177.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1968, VOL. IV, NO. 2

Next Meeting

March 5 8 p.m.

First Parish Hall

Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd

LOWER NEWTON STREET
AN ARCHITECTURAL PERSPECTIVE

During the years since 1956 when Margaret Floyd received her M.A. from the University of New Mexico in the History of Art in Architecture, she has actively engaged in surveying and analyzing buildings, in speaking and in writing. Her interest in architectural history now has focused on the southeastern part of Weston, particularly on the older homes in the Chiltern Hundreds area. This lies to the west of Park Road, the lower part of which formerly was known as East Newton Street. According to a plan of land conveyed in 1888 by the Executors of the Estate of Charles T. Hubbard to his heirs, five homes had been erected there. They formed the nucleus of one of the finest residential areas in town. The magnificent view from this hilltop across the Charles River valley is truly impressive. It so intrigued Mr. Hubbard that he purchased numerous parcels of it along East Newton Street. Mrs. Floyd will begin with what we now see in this general vicinity and explain its development in the light of the personalities which influenced it.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the benefit of those who had to miss the Annual Meeting held on November 14, 1967, the following highlights are given:

Achievements of the Year:

Historical Map (50c each, Postage 4c): Prepared by the Lucas Committee, the map is on sale at The Jones House, The Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Company, The Village Book Stall, The Kien Chung Tea House and The College Store at Regis College. It is an authentic, scholarly souvenir of Weston to be kept and cherished by every citizen. Many are mailing maps to friends and relatives throughout the world.

Restoration Law Office: Under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Travis, a miracle of restoration is underway. Special thanks go to volunteers George Pink, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Albrecht, Mrs. Robert McLeod, Mrs. Robert Murkland, Mrs. F. William Aseltine, Miss Joan Simpson and Weston's spryest octogenarian, Eddie Edmunds. Come spring, the work of these volunteers, augmented by the many more who are needed, will reflect itself in an amazingly attractive transformation. If you are unable to work (a log fire will keep you warm), you are invited to give or get objects suitable for the decor of an early 19th Century Law Office.

Town and Gown: The Burgoyne Elm Project with the schools, the rewarding archaeological "dig" of High School history students on the site of the original Hews Pottery Works, the research papers being prepared with membership sponsorship by 17 Regis College Students majoring in history and the ready cooperation of Weston College in our plans to explore the historic sites on their campus, are all instances of remarkably significant import to Town and Gown. These activities are spreading an air of excitement throughout the community, contributing as they do to an awareness of our matchless history on the part of every living generation from cradle to grave.

Program: Accolades to Mrs. Boardman Bump and her Program Committee for the lectures of Jean Gorely, Brent Dickson and Roger Webb plus the tour of the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon. Mrs. Richard Albrecht and her committee have planned the attractive future program listed elsewhere in this issue.

Every Member Get A Member:

We are proud of the many citizens who are regularly paying dues but each of us should see that every family in this great town supports our Society. The cost of our "Bulletin," of the Law Office restoration and of our many other projects is steadily rising and we must have a commensurate increase in revenue which can best be assured through a larger number of supporting members. Life Memberships, the principal of which is maintained as endowment, represent in annual interest, the equivalent of five yearly dues, and there is no more helpful investment that any of us can make to safeguard the preservation of Weston's best. By the kind of teamwork for which we are famous, let us determine that by June we shall have doubled the membership of the Weston Historical Society. Let us thus know that the future of Weston's past is secure.

Checks should be mailed to Harry B. Jones, Treasurer, 448 Concord Road, Weston, Massachusetts, 02193

Annual Meeting Election Results

Acting on the nominations proposed by Mr. Leonard Dowse and his committee, members at the annual meeting on November 14th elected the following:
Honorary Director for Life: Henry W. Patterson
Directors for 3 years: John W. Ayer, John G. Brooks and Mrs. Homer N. Sweet.
President: Harold G. Travis
Vice President: Harold B. Willis, Jr.
2nd Vice President: Charles P. Gorely, Jr.
Treasurer: Harry B. Jones
Secretary: Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke
Clerk: John G. Brooks

* * *

Continuing Directors: J. Kenneth Bennett, Philip F. Coburn, Brenton H. Dickson, Erlund Field, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Harold G. Travis, Harold B. Willis, Jr.

Thank You, Rotary!

We are proud to announce that The Rotary Club of Weston has agreed to equip the Welcome Wagon with enough copies of our Historical Map of Weston so that each new comer to the Town will be presented a copy with the Rotary's compliments. This is not the first act of cooperation with our objectives by this civic organization, and we are indeed grateful.

Welcome to New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Miss Lee Dineen, Angele Hall, Regis College, Mrs. Joseph L. Knowlton, 633 Boston Post Road and Mrs. Bryant O. Spencer, 44 Sunset Road.

One regular member has recently changed to a Life Membership.

News from The Jones House

The Society's rooms in The Jones House will not be open on a regular basis until early March. They will, however, be open on appointment by calling Mrs. James Fraser, 894-2872 or Mrs. Robert McLeod, 893-0406.

Thanks and appreciation are given to the following for their recent gifts and donations: Mrs. Roger Woodbury, Mrs. William Elliston, Mr. Walter H. Trumbull, Mrs. Helen Wells, Mrs. William R. Dewey, Jr., Mrs. Richard Howard, Mrs. Roger Woodman, Mrs. J. Herbert Lawson, Mrs. David Little, Mrs. George W. Cutting, Jr., Mrs. Edward Hall, Miss Elizabeth Kenney, Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, Mr. Harold G. Travis, Sister Fidelma of Regis College and the late Miss Rebecca McKenna.

THE JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN (The Jones House)

"I asked . . . how far it was to a tavern; he said a mile . . . another half mile above, the first kept by Joel Smith, a good tavern and a good liberty man; the other kept by Captain Isaac Jones, a wicked Tory, . . . British officers go there from Boston. Came to Smith's tavern where two teamsters were tackling their teams. . . . I went into the house and asked for a drink of rum and molasses, one of the men followed me and told Smith he guessed I was a British spy. . . . Smith . . . sent me to Captain Jones who kept a tavern at the Sign of the Golden Ball." (*Excerpt from John Howe's Journal*)

Such was the Smith tavern just prior to the Revolution. Today it overlooks the Town Green — a sentinel that has spanned the centuries — a lone survivor of a group of buildings which constituted Weston Center. It opened as a tavern in 1757 and immediately became successful. Six years later Josiah Smith enlarged the original square building by the addition of a new kitchen, barroom and reception room downstairs and a large ballroom upstairs where a Weston belle, according to an entry in her diary, "danced until three o'clock in the morning." Over the years this room has been put to many uses — school classes, town meetings, church services, etc. Measuring 20 by 50 feet, it compared favorably in size with many of the ballrooms of its time.

In stagecoach days, horses were "baited" at Josiah Smith's while the passengers ate breakfast. This was often the first stop on a journey from Boston to New York — a journey that, before 1800, required as much as a week. The taverns along the way offered entertainment for man and beast and were an important feature of any village with their large kitchens, ample dining facilities and, of course, the barroom — that democratic place where the village squire and itinerant tramp (welcome as long as his pennies held out) might exchange gossip and opinions over a glass of rum and molasses. With rum selling at 37¢ a gallon the tramp could do better then than today. Many taverns were provided with large stabling capacity, numerous stalls and adjoining sheds with feed troughs. Landlords were usually men of consequence and Josiah was no exception. In the early 1770s he was one of the few people in town rich enough to own two Negro slaves. Isaac Jones of the Golden Ball Tavern owned but one.

The three main factors responsible for Josiah's immediate success were: intensive travelling along the highway, a lively commerce in the village and finally the sale of liquor.

There were many stage coach lines out of Boston at an early date "but none earlier or more important than the one along the Boston Post Road" through Weston and on to Worcester and New York. Even after the completion of the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9) in 1810, stage coaches continued serving the towns along the old line and remained the all important way of travel to the west and south until the opening of the Boston and Worcester Railroad in 1835. From 1820-35 there were several well established lines that made five trips a day in each direction through Weston. Two of these, whose proprietors came from East Sudbury, ran in relays of horses — first from Boston to East Sudbury with the second change at Northboro.

Other familiar sights along the 'great roads' in the early days were the canvas-topped wagons of the marketers, laden with produce from up country, and the constant flow of 'heavy teams' drawn by oxen, carrying such merchandise as wood, hay, cider, apples etc. The great open spaces on the third floor of the Josiah Smith Tavern provided sleeping accommodations for the teamsters and marketers as well as the drovers who brought cattle down to market on foot. They were a rough crowd, rendered even rougher by their prolonged visits to the barroom and the landlord must always be concerned lest they set fire to his hostelry. It is said that Mr. Reeves of the Reeves Tavern in Wayland slept with these men on the third floor to guard against such a possibility and no doubt Josiah Smith and his son Joel did the same.

Completion of the Boston and Worcester Railroad marked the end of intensive stagecoaching through Weston. By 1845, when the Fitchburg Railroad was completed, Weston stagnated as a stage stop and tavern business had long since been discontinued.

The second factor contributing to the prosperity of Weston taverns was the commercial aspect of the town. In the early nineteenth century Weston became an important shopping center. People from out of town would come once or twice a year to do their shopping and put up for the night at the various taverns. In those days nobody would think of going to Boston to shop. It was a long, circuitous trip — either through Roxbury or by ferry from Somerville — so Weston, at the intersection of three important thoroughfares, was ideally situated to attract trade from the outside. People even came from Waltham to do their shopping in Weston. Lamson's store, across the street from the tavern, was noted for the quality and variety of its dry goods and a tailor next door was available for fashioning the cloth to the desires of the customers. Lamson's store was considered the most important of its kind in Middlesex County. George Smith, Josiah's grandson, operated a store where the library is today, selling mostly groceries. A George Bigelow operated still another store in the west end of the Josiah Smith Taven (1838).

Mr. Charles Merriam who succeeded Mr. Lamson in the dry goods business and Mr. H. W. Wellington, who succeeded Mr. Merriam, both went to Boston and became prosperous merchants. They timed their departure well for within a few years Weston's era of prosperity was "blown out by the whistle of the steam engine."

The third factor influencing the success of Weston taverns which, like the other two, has become a thing of the past, was the sale of liquor. Barrooms did a lucrative business with town topers and transient teamsters and had their own entrance so that the gentlefolk would not have to be humiliated or embarrassed by the presence of ruffians and habitual drunkards. The custom of drinking was not frowned upon in the early days. Liquor was considered a necessity and water more or less superfluous. Housewives made homebrew and their husbands, cider. There was always a drink available for any guest who happened to drop in at the house. Drunkenness, as we know it today, was a rarity. The farmers were hard drinkers but they worked it off. Temperance and anti-cardplaying crusades didn't get underway until the 1830's.

Nor was the clergy averse to an occasional snorter. Ministers distilled liquor for their private use and sometimes owned commercial distilleries. The story is told of a minister's wife who gave an Indian a drink of her hard cider. When he had finished he set the pot down, smacked his lips and said Adam and Eve were "rightlie damned for eating ye appills in ye garden of Eden, they should have made them into cyder." Another minister, during one of the early crusades was asked by a female temperance worker to sign a pledge. He read it aloud and was arrested by the phrase, "unless under the advise of my physician." He agreed to sign the pledge with the understanding that he was his own physician!

Still another factor contributing to the popularity of the Josiah Smith Tavern might be mentioned — surreptitious card playing. On the third floor, tucked away beneath the eaves was a secret room where the sporty set met and gambled. There were no windows, the only light being furnished by a candle or two on the table, which, according to Lamson was covered with a green baize cloth. An accumulation of candlewax on the floor could be found there many years later. So secure and so hidden from the outside world were these "degenerate sons of Bible-loving Christians" that they could indulge in their sinful occupation at any hour of the day or night, undetected. They even played on Sundays as the minister preached the gospel across the street "now and again seeking to drown their quickening consciences in free potations of rum and sugar." Despite the scandalous behaviour of these Sabbath breakers and the road to ruination that they chose to follow, it is a well-known fact that many of them prospered and became men of importance and highly respected citizens.

Josiah Smith died in 1782 and was succeeded by his son Joel. Both Joel and Josiah were prominent in town politics and held the offices of town clerk and selectman at one time or another. Joel's son-in-law, George W. Pierce, was the next landlord and he was succeeded by Messrs. Macomber and Warren respectively. By 1838 the building was no longer a tavern, although it was not brought by the Jones brothers until 1842.

Marshall Jones was born in the Hannah Gowing house on Highland Street in 1791. He served his apprenticeship in the harness business with Mr. Hobbs on North Avenue and in 1824 bought the Abraham Hews house, which today is occupied by doctor's offices, and there set up a profitable business in harness and paint. His brother John worked with him as a journeyman until taken into partnership when the firm became known as M. & J. Jones. They both became men of considerable wealth.

Even after they bought the Josiah Smith tavern, the ballroom was used for public purposes. A town meeting was held there in 1847. Some time after this the great room was divided into three bedrooms and numerous closets and it remained in this disguised condition until the house was restored in the 1950's.

John Jones's granddaughters, Alice and Ellen Jones, continued to occupy the house as long as they lived. Alice died in 1947 and Ellen in 1950, at which time the ancient landmark passed into the hands of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

The above is the fifth in a series of articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson.

New Appointments

The President has appointed a "Project Burgoyne Elm" committee comprising Howard M. Forbes, Chairman, Mrs. Daniel F. Viles, Jr., and Mr. Galen Green to supervise the utilization of the wood and the making of souvenirs therefrom by students in the Industrial Arts Department of the Senior and Junior High Schools. The first Weston Historical Society awards for excellence will be made, it is expected, by Commencement in June, to be continued annually for many years to come.

Mrs. William B. Floyd, the speaker at our forthcoming March meeting, has been appointed to serve the Society, Town, and private owners of old homes and sites by outlining and guiding steps that should be taken in order to have historic buildings and sites certified by Federal and State authorities. With Miss Elizabeth Kenney, she and Mr. Travis attended at the Old South Meeting House in Boston on November 30th, the regional conference held by the Secretary of State on Public Law 89-665, The National Historic Preservation Act, The National Register. Delegates were present from New England and New York, and procedures were explained in detail by the Chairman of the Massachusetts Historic Commission and staff members of the National Park Service.

Keeping Faith With The Past

By vote of the Directors, our President relayed to fellow member, Rev. Harry Hoehler, the congratulations and gratitude of our Society to the members of the First Parish Church in Weston for the appropriate and tasteful addition that has just been completed on, or adjacent to, the sacred site of the original Meeting House. The letter said in part:

"The skillful manner in which the commodious addition has been blended into the natural setting which we all admire, and the courage and consideration you have demonstrated in carrying on the fieldstone motif, understandably at substantial extra cost, is to be most warmly commended. You too have kept faith with the glorious and historic past of old Weston so that generations yet unborn, will be inspired by your example to cherish their inheritance and to feed the altar fires their fathers lit. May the First Parish that started here in the 17th Century enter the 21st determined, no matter what the perils of the world may be, to continue in the tradition of service to Almighty God and through Him, to our fellow men."

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

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Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor, 899-0177.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

JANUARY 1968

Program Highlights

1968

March 5	Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd "Lower Newton Street — An Architectural Perspective" 8:00 p.m. — First Parish Hall
April 23	4th Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner Lecture by Col. Edward P. Hamilton on "Early Mills"

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

March 1968, Vol. IV, No. 3

The Law Office

Pictured above is an unusual picture of the fireplace in the Law Office taken the morning after early January's heavy snowfall. In olden times when a constant log fire was the only means of heating a house in cold weather, the snow melted as it fell. Thus when the fireplaces were opened up in the process of our restoration, and before the chimney could be capped or otherwise protected, the snow "beat us to it" as the picture so dramatically reveals!

The upper portion of the photograph confirms the happy result of hours of scraping and sandpapering by our volunteers, and the patching of the plaster. Join us some weekend or evening on arrangement with Mr. F. Leslie Ford, 899-8171.

The Directors are planning to have an open house in mid-May to give all members and friends an opportunity to see what will have been accomplished and what is still necessary before the opening of our new headquarters to visitors and the public.

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 1968 – 8 p.m.
First Parish Hall

"LOWER NEWTON STREET — An Architectural Perspective"

Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd

On March 5th Mrs. William B. Floyd, Architectural Consultant, will address the Weston Historical Society. She is a resident of Weston and a member of our Society, a graduate of Wellesley College and holds a Master's Degree from the University of New Mexico in the field of the History of Art in Architecture.

Stressing in particular the importance of historical and architectural inventory in America today, Mrs. Floyd has selected the Hubbard Estate in Weston as illustrative material.* She will discuss the buildings which now exist in this crucial area of the town in the light of their historic meaning as a group and the architectural streetscape which they create. The buildings will also be discussed in relation to the growth of Boston and the evolution of American architectural styles.

In addition, Mrs. Floyd will explain national legislation for historic preservation, the National Register and the role of the Massachusetts Historic Commission and the local historic commissions in the planning and development of towns today.

This meeting is open to all members and their guests.

**The specific area of "The Hubbard Estate" covers Orchard Avenue (including Ridgeway Road and Park Road as they abut it), Nash Lane, Young Road, Cutters Corner and parts of South Avenue.*

Charter Anniversary Dinner – *April 23, 1968*
Weston High School Cafeteria – 6:30

Col. Edward Pierce Hamilton to speak on
"Old Mills Along the Charles River"

The annual Charter Anniversary Dinner, social highlight of the year, will again be held at the Senior High School Cafeteria, attractively decorated for the occasion. However, "There'll be some changes made" in that it will be a sit-down dinner, served by pretty waitresses, and entertainment will be an added feature during the dinner hour. Our avid researchers have discovered that the membership includes people who have a talent for singing as well as one for seeking and preserving historical facts that have made Weston the town it is today.

Following dinner, Col. Edward Hamilton of Milton, Massachusetts will address the Society. Recommended by Mr. Stephen Riley, a fellow member and Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Col. Hamilton is the Director of Fort Ticonderoga. Author of many books on pre-Revolutionary history including "French and Indian Wars," "Fort Ticonderoga" and "Adventure in the Wilderness" — the American Journals of Louis de Bougainville, 1756-1760, he is in demand as lecturer and consultant on early mills and the military history of our country. For his talk to us, he agreed to engage in additional research, giving special emphasis to the old mills along the Charles River.

As record attendance is expected, be sure to fill out and mail the reservation slip on the back page *TODAY*. This is your only notice and the Committee needs to know how many places to guarantee.

The Importance of a Weston Historical Commission

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to request the Selectmen to insert an article in the Warrant of the annual Town Meeting March 25th to establish a Weston Historical Commission. **All members of the Weston Historical Society are urged to attend this meeting** and support the motion that will be presented to establish an Historical Commission as authorized under Section 8D, Chapter 697 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This was enacted into law in 1963 and both Wayland and Sudbury promptly established Historical Commissions for their towns. After their enactment of seven man Historical Commissions and initiating an inventory of historic sites and buildings, these towns then each established an Historical District Commission because their surveys showed the presence of entire areas that they wished to protect under the above and Public Law 89665 whereby such districts were registered. Before contemplating whether or not an Historical District Commission is actually needed in Weston, the Board feels that the Town should first have its Historical Commission determine the location of all the buildings and sites that should be protected. Then, if these fall into districts, a Historical District Commission could be established. If what we need can be accomplished in one single step, so much the better.

With widenings of Routes 30, 20 and 117 under constant consideration and with "The Stadium Scare" still a matter of serious concern, it behooves the Town to guard against takings by eminent domain that would destroy any of our historic landmarks. State and Federal highway engineers and local planning boards would benefit from knowing ahead of time what areas should be avoided in their plannings, thereby saving time and expense in the formulation of their proposals.

Once a building or site is certified or registered under State and Federal Law as above described, only an act of the Legislature would permit the taking by eminent domain, — and the proposed Weston Historical Commission is the only body that can thus protect us. We have historic buildings and sites on and near all 3 main highways running to and from Wayland and Sudbury, so the urgency of similar safeguards by Weston is obvious.

Last "Bulletin" Until May!

Two important meetings in March and one in April are of particular significance for members of the Weston Historical Society. This present "Bulletin" is our only means of alerting you. Please read carefully the details of these meetings and put the dates down in your calendar. Newspaper publicity will precede each event but our budget does not permit special mailings — so — "this is it" — don't be one of those who say "I missed the last meeting and am so disappointed because I heard it was great — why didn't I know?"

In Memoriam

The death of Mrs. Helen E. (Warren) Cutting on February 11th is a real loss to the Society. She was born in Weston 83 years ago, educated in the Weston schools where she taught for 7 years following her graduation from Radcliffe College. She was the widow of George W. Cutting 3rd who had been treasurer and town collector for 21 years and she succeeded him in that position for 22 years, retiring in 1964. Having lived all of her life in Weston, she has contributed much to the annals of our Society which she actively, constantly and joyously served from its inception.

The Weston Historical Map

From far and near accolades are being received for this rare souvenir of old Weston. The January Bay State Historical League Bulletin devotes 3 paragraphs in its praise. State Librarian Fox calls it "a fine job." The Curator of the Andover Historical Society has recommended to her directors that they attempt to emulate it. Copies at 50¢ each are still available at the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Co., Village Book Stall, Kien Chung Tea House and the College Store at Regis College.

They may be mailed "as is" to any point in the United States for regular 6¢ letter mail postage. Why not buy a supply and mail them to your friends in far off places?

Acknowledgment

We are indebted to Mrs. Howard M. Forbes for the gift of colored photographs, taken by her last August 15th. These record the giant, limb-by-limb dismantling of the historic Burgoyne Elm on the Post Road, and will be preserved in the archives of the Society.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Calendar Highlights

1968

Tuesday March 5	Illustrated Lecture by Mrs. William B. Floyd "Lower Newton Street — An Architectural Perspective" 8:00 p.m. — First Parish Hall
Monday March 25	Town Meeting 8:00 p.m. — Town Hall
Tuesday April 23	4th Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner 6:30 p.m. — Senior High School Cafeteria Speaker: Col. Edward P. Hamilton "Old Mills Along the Charles River"

Charter Anniversary Dinner – *April 23, 1968*

Weston High School Cafeteria — 6:30 p.m.

Reservations $3.50 per person, not later than April 13th.

Please enclose checks payable to The Weston Historical Society, Inc.

MR. HARRY B. JONES, Treasurer
448 Concord Road, Weston, Mass. 02193

Please reserve.....places at $3.50 each for —

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Cut off and mail

Directory

For service and offers of assistance, in the fields indicated, call the following:

Mr. Leslie Ford (Law Office Restoration)	899-8171
Mrs. Reginald Elwell (Membership)	893-7361
Mrs. James Fraser (Archivist)	894-2872
Mrs. Robert McLeod (Curator)	893-0406
Mr. Erlund Field (Research)	237-9899
Mrs. Richard Albrecht (Program)	899-1320
Mrs. Reginald Wells (Hospitality)	899-1616
Mrs. H. Eugene Jones (Bulletin)	899-0177
Mrs. C. Vinal Cooke, Secretary	893-0950
Mr. Harry B. Jones, Treasurer	899-0977
Mr. Harold G. Travis, President	899-4515

Annual Dues: $2.00 per person

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and sent to Mr. Harry B. Jones, 448 Concord Road, Weston 02193.

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 15c. Please contact Mrs. H. Eugene Jones, Bulletin Editor, 899-0177.

A. T. FRASER

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MAY 1968, VOL. IV, NO. 4

RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS

Standing: l. to r. Harold G. Travis, Mrs. Ruth Murkland, Mr. J. E. Fraser, Mrs. F. William Aseltine, Jr. and Mr. Alan Campbell. 2nd Row: George J. Pink, Richard Albrecht, Mrs. Harold G. Travis, F. Leslie Ford. 1st Row: Roy L. Dickson, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, Miss Joan Simpson.

Other "scrapers, scrubbers and strippers, plasterers and plumbers" not shown in the picture taken during this "coffee break" April 27th are: Mrs. Richard Albrecht, C. G. Ball, Edward Briggs, Murray Burke, George Downs, Dudley B. Dumaine, Edward Edmunds, Erlund Field, Mrs. Edward H. Hall, Mrs. Leander Rafuse and George K. Saurwein.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday May 25th, 2-5 P.M.

ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE
626 Boston Post Road

JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN
358 Boston Post Road

Refreshments will be served

Isaac Fiske Law Office

All members and prospective members are cordially invited to drop in at 626 Boston Post Road, Saturday afternoon, May 25th, to see what miracles have been wrought through the hard and faithful work of our volunteers who, beginning last fall, and through the winter, gave unselfishly and enthusiastically of their time, talents and energy. With the advent of spring, the pace has quickened and whereas the tedious early stages seemed endless and showed few tangible results, now suddenly the glorious transition has come into full view. From dingy gloom to bright cheerfulness, each room has taken on new life.

We want you to see how much has been accomplished, and how much more is needed before we can rest our oars and open our new headquarters to members and visitors.

Josiah Smith Tavern

The exhibit at the ballroom of the Jones House (Josiah Smith Tavern) will consist of new acquisitions by the Society, costumes and other gifts, quilts, pewter and china.

"Thank you" to Mrs. J. Wesley Jones for many nice additions to our costume collection. Mrs. Helen Wells has donated water color pictures of Stony Brook and Sibley Mills as well as skeins of yarn from the latter which were displayed at the recent Charter Anniversary Dinner.

Members who would like to display quilts should contact Barbara Hall (Mrs. Edward H.) 899-0887. Mrs. Roy Dickson and Mrs. Gordon Littlehale will be in charge of the costume display. Please call Mrs. Robert McLeod 893-0406 or Mrs. James Fraser 894-2872 if you have china or pewter you would like to display.

Committee Plans Townwide Membership Expansion

At the May 8th meeting of Directors and Officers, the recommendations of our dynamic, new Membership Committee as presented by Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell, Chairman, were enthusiastically approved. A letter is being mailed to all Weston residents who have not yet joined in the significant work of our Society. The Committee consists of Mrs. Elwell as Chairman, and Mesdames Dudley B. Dumaine, Julia Kellogg Ellis, Richard B. Hodges, Edward E. Phillips, Frederic C. Talbot and Andrew F. Willis.

Aiming to include the youth of our town in its membership, the Society, effective September 1, 1968 will offer annual family memberships at $5.00 each, under which minor children are entitled to all privileges except voting. A family is considered to be the husband, wife and their children under 21. The Society's year runs from September 1st to August 31st. Single memberships of $3.00 and life memberships of $200 will also be available. All members are urged to cooperate with our committee in our desire to have all Weston residents join in supporting our work and thus preserve, protect and promote our rich historical heritage.

Charter Anniversary Dinner a Great Success

On April 23rd, members of the Society filled the High School Cafeteria to enjoy a sumptuous dinner and sparkling program. Donations at each table reflected the artistry of our Hospitality Committee headed by Mrs. Reginald D. Wells. Daffodils from the garden of the Isaac Fiske Law Office were most appropriate as were the antique candlesticks supplied through the initiative of our Curator, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod.

Mrs. Wells' Committee comprised Mesdames Charles G. Ball, Frederick D. Bonner, Parker Harrison, Greene Fitzhugh, Robert F. McLeod, John H. Stewart and Joseph Stubbs. Hostesses were Miss Helen Johnson and Mesdames Philip F. Coburn, J. Kenneth Bennett, Edward H. Dickson, E. Paul Floyd, James E. Fraser, Charles P. Gorely, Leopold Gruener, Richard B. Lombard, Edward W. Marshall, Thomas H. McFarlin, Alexander Mackintosh, John W. Scott, Allan T. Wheeler, Wilmot Whitney and Alfred R. Wypler, Jr.

During dinner courses Dr. William H. Oldach as "The Pungster Minstrel" led the group in singing old songs to the accompaniment of his guitar.

Before turning the meeting over to Mrs. Richard Albrecht, Program Chairman, the President, Harold G. Travis, asked Mrs. James E. Fraser, Archivist, to escort Miss Catherine Imbriglio of Regis College to receive the following citation: — "Be it known that: in admiration and appreciation of a thesis prepared and presented to us by Miss Catherine Imbriglio of Regis College on "The Archives of The Weston Historical Society" the directors, by unanimous vote, present to her this Award of Merit."

For the balance of the evening the audience was privileged to enjoy a most interesting and nostalgic illustrated lecture by Col. Edward P. Hamilton on "Old Mills Along the Charles." Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr. in accordance with his faithful custom, made a tape recording of the evening's events and the President announced plans for a series of scheduled "showings" of these tapes for the benefit of those who may have had to miss any of these affairs and of those who would like to hear the "replay."

Town and Gown Activity

Recent issues of *The Regis College Herald* feature a series of extracts from the theses prepared last fall by Dr. Vera Laska's history class. In a surprise ceremony at the College in April, the Dean of the College presented to President Travis the original bound manuscript for which its compiler, Miss Catherine Imbriglio, was later awarded our Society's first citation.

In our public schools several hundred copies of the Weston Historical Society's historical map have been sold and are already being used in the 2nd grade of the Brook School, the 5th grade of the Woodland School and in the Senior High School. Our fellow member, Mr. William Hollman, head of Social Studies for the Weston school system, is steadily finding many ways of bringing Weston history alive to Weston students of all grades and ages. Individual copies at 50c. each, suitable for mailing, are available at the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Co., the Village Book Stall, the Kien Chung Tea House and the Regis College Store.

Final Restoration of Law Office Hastens Furnishing Need

As emphasized at the Charter Anniversary Dinner, April 23rd, we want every member of the Society to share in the work of restoring this ancient landmark. In response to the President's plea "Give us two hours of *your* time," many recruits have come forward. If unable to give energy or skill, you can help in other ways through contributions. Were it not for the volunteers and the donations of paint, tools and supplies, the project to date would have cost us more than $3000, but thanks to the above, our expenses up to now have been nominal. Certain professional work is inevitable in the final stages and will cost money. For example the floors require expert refinishing, the chimney must be capped and the cupboard doors need old hardware with "H" and "L" hinges and matching knobs.

After the work of restoring the Law Office is completed, the task of tastefully and appropriately furnishing it commences and Mrs. Ford 899-8171 and Mrs. Travis 899-4515 have already accumulated a number of attractive items. The portrait of the Burgoyne Elm and Law Office, done so expertly by Henry W. Longfellow of Concord Road, will hang in the waiting room, and the portrait of Isaac Fiske, to be donated by his descendants with the stand-up desk he used, will adorn the wall of his inner office. Mrs. Grace Warren of Webster Road has loaned the Society a beautifully framed old map of Greater Boston, and, as previously announced, Mrs. David Hudnut of Glen Road has presented us with the two mid-nineteenth century carved oak chairs used by Sir and Lady Arthur Conan Doyle, and Mrs. Frank Owen of the Boston Post Road has given us an antique Deacon's Bench and Table.

Latest gifts comprise an old pine taper-leg table, a brass trivet with copper kettle, a glass whale oil lamp, a firkin, and a brass cowbell through the generosity of Mr. Raymond B. Bidwell of Orchard Avenue.

Burgoyne Elm Project

The first annual award of the Society will be made early next month to the student of Weston Public School Industrial Departments, who, in the opinion of the judges, has fashioned the most worthwhile souvenir from the wood of the historic elm that until last August 15th had stood for over 300 years at 626 Boston Post Road. These souvenirs will be initially displayed at the Weston Arts and Crafts exhibit in the Jones House Barn later this month and will be judged at that time.

At a special ceremony, citations and awards will be presented at the Isaac Fiske Law Office which was built underneath branches of the famous tree at the close of the 18th Century. The Committee in charge of the competition comprises Howard M. Forbes, Chairman, Mrs. Daniel Viles and Mr. Galen Green.

Welcome to New Members

The Society is happy to welcome the following into its membersghip: Mr. Arthur C. Havlin, 211 Starboard Lane, Osterville; Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chapman, 15 Myles Standish Road, Weston and Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Hosterman, 325 Merriam Street, Weston.

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The Weston Historical Society Bulletin

MAY 1968

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1968, Vol. V, No. 1

The Weston Historical Society announces the program schedule for 1968 - 1969. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us for these stimulating events:

Sunday, October 20 — 4:00 P.M. Smith Tavern Ballroom

"The Blacksmith and His Art," a lecture by Mr. Hallock S. Marsh, and an exhibition of early tools, followed by a Candlelight reception.

Monday, October 21-26 — 2:00-4:00 P.M. Smith Tavern Barn

"Grandpa's Tools," an exhibit for non-members, dedicated to Mr. Joseph Sherman, blacksmith of Watertown Farmes, and his grandson, the Honorable Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. The collection is made available to the Society through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hallock S. Marsh.

Friday, November 22 — 8:30 P.M. Town Hall

SPECIAL BENEFIT: "Around the Cracker Barrel," an original three-act play about Weston life during the years 1770-1781.

Tuesday, February 4 — 8:00 P.M. Country School Auditorium

"New England in Song and Story," a singing history program on the New England "character," by Mr. Arthur E. Schrader, the Music Associate and Ballad Singer at Old Sturbridge Village.

Tuesday, April 15 — 6:30 P.M. Weston High School Cafeteria

Fifth Charter Anniversary Dinner.

We are pleased to welcome the sixty-seven new members who have joined the Society since our last BULLETIN:

Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Anderson.....40 Arrowhead Road
Mr. and Mrs. Henri B. Atkins.....90 Kings Grant Road
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Crawford.....55 Newton Street
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Davis Jr. .....168 Conant Road
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. DeChristopher.....48 Ledgewood Road
Mrs. David D. Donaldson.....128 Rolling Lane
Mrs. Russell L. Dorrance.....311 Boston Post Road
Mrs. Newell O. Ellis.....177 Boston Post Road
Dr. and Mrs. David J. Farrell.....25 Church Street
Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson.....37 Deer Path Lane
Mrs. Peter E. Flint.....260 Merriam Street
Mr. and Mrs. John Forte.....47 School Street
Allison M. Furness.....16 Jones Road
Mr. and Mrs. J. Donald Geiger.....119 Radcliffe Road
Miss Florence P. Gould.....260 Merriam Street
Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Hiatt.....45 Bogle Street
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph P. Hussey.....175 Lexington Street
Mr. and Mrs. Sumner M. Howard.....29 Radcliffe Road
Mr. and Mrs. L. Everett Johnson.....44 Byron Road
Rena Johnson.....320 Conant Road
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Jones.....185 Merriam Street
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kazanjian.....19 Wood Ridge Road
Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Keeler.....30 Windsor Way
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Keeley.....16 Woodchester Drive
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kendall.....57 Colchester Road
Mr. G. Ronald Kesinger.....240 Ridgeway Road
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Marsden.....30 Kendall Common
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. McLeod.....56 Arrowhead Road
Miss Beatrice P. Miller.....46 North Avenue
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Pechilis.....101 Ash Street
Dr. Henry P. Pendergrass.....195 Meadowbrook Road
Mrs. Hugh M. Pyle.....60 Bradford Road
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur F. Seiler.....14 Laurel Road
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Silverman.....31 Holly Circle
Mrs. Joseph Stubbs.....210 Newton Street
Mr. and Mrs. Everett M. Studley.....22 Bullard Road
Mr. and Mrs. Edw. P. VerPlanck.....40 Indian Hill Road
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Weidig.....15 Lexington Street
Dr. and Mrs. Lionelle D. Wells.....73 Rolling Lane
Mrs. Otto E. Wolff.....2030 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

October 20th features
"THE BLACKSMITH AND HIS ART"

Members will be treated to a lecture, "The Blacksmith and His Art," by Mr. Hallock Marsh of Rockport on Sunday afternoon, October 20th at 4:00 P.M. in The Josiah Smith Tavern. In Puritan days the art of building demanded a great deal of skill and ingenuity in fashioning a variety of the simple, sometimes clumsy, tools that were used by our ancestors. A candlelight reception will follow Mr. Marsh's lecture.

In conjunction with his lecture, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh will display an exhibit of "Grandpa's Tools" in the Josiah Smith Tavern Barn the ensuing six days from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The exhibit, which will be open to members and the general public, is dedicated to Mr. Joseph Sherman, the first blacksmith of Watertown Farmes, and to his grandson, the Honorable Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. Our curator, Mrs. Robert F. McLeod, and Mrs. A. Bruce Downes will be in charge of the exhibit.

Although the position of village blacksmith is, today, virtually non-existent, the "smithie" of earlier times was a colorful, indispensable, and respected member of the community. Farmers who were self-sufficient in all other ways, depended for the proper tools upon the skilled blacksmith for their cutting tools and implements.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsh in their collection have preserved numerous examples of "Yankee Ingenuity" to show how grandpa and the blacksmith combined to think over their problems and to work together, thus improving American design with unparalleled skill. We are certain that our members will most thoroughly enjoy the lecture that Mr. Marsh has so graciously offered to deliver, and the exhibit that he and Mrs. Marsh have through the years assembled.

"Around the Cracker Barrel"

Weston Historical Society members will be treated to an evening "Around the Cracker Barrel," Friday, November 22. Town Hall will be the setting for this original three-act play which depicts Weston life during the years 1770-1781. Mr. Henry W. Patterson and Mrs. H. Patterson Wheeler authored the script and the Messrs. Brenton Dickson and Erlund Field made substantial contributions to the historical documentation of the story.

A talented cast of over twenty local actors will perform under the direction of Mrs. Wheeler and Miss Florence Freeman. They will portray such colorful protagonists as Josiah Smith, Isaac Jones, Parson Woodward, Sergeant Howe, Sam Train, Nate Coolidge, Goody Russell, and Veanus, the liberated slave. In addition to its historical significance, the play has elements of suspense and romance.

This is the first fund-raising affair staged by the Society in its five-year history. Tickets will be available in the near future, the cost being $1.00 for members and $1.50 for guests. A closing date will be set for the purchase of tickets, to assure substantial seating. Proceeds from this function will be used to complete the Fiske Law Office Restoration project.

Plan to Attend Annual Meeting November 13

Our annual meeting is called for Wednesday evening, November 13, at eight o'clock in the Josiah Smith Tavern ("The Jones House"). The meeting is intended to be a full review of the past year's accomplishments and a statement of future plans. All officers and committee chairmen will deliver their yearly reports at this time. Following adjournment, the directors will conduct a short meeting for organizational purposes.

Restoration Continues On Isaac Fiske Law Office

"It's a little gem," was the enthusiastic consensus of the almost two hundred members and friends who visited the Society's future headquarters at the Fiske Law Office last May 25. The efforts of the twenty-two volunteer workers who toiled so faithfully through last winter and spring were rewarded by the success of their labor of love. But more help is needed as we enter the final stages. If you can lend a helping hand, call 899-8171 or 899-4515.

Membership Dues Increase As Society's Costs Mount

Increased costs for program speakers, hall rentals, and the BULLETIN, as well as a $700 expenditure for the Fiske Law Office restoration have resulted in an increase in membership dues, effective August 1, 1968.

Bills for annual dues, at the new rates of $3.00 single and $5.00 family will soon be mailed. The membership committee is planning a series of neighborhood contacts. Their goal is to gain the support of every family in Weston.

You can advance the committee's work by projecting your own enthusiasm for the Society's exciting and worthwhile programs to your friends and neighbors. In this way the Weston Historical Society can capitalize on its opportunity to protect, promote and advance the town's historical heritage.

Our treasurer reports that the Endowment Fund has now passed the $2,000 mark and earns $100 annual interest. This fund is made up of $200 life memberships, an excellent means of insuring the permanent work of the Society.

Society Co-hosts Statewide Meeting on Patriot's Day

Patriot's Day, April 19, marks the date that the historical societies of Weston and Wayland will co-host the spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, chairman of the Liaison Committee, hopes you will save the date to help us entertain the more than 200 Massachusetts historical societies which will be represented at the meeting.

First Annual Craftsmanship Awards

President Harold G. Travis presented the first annual Weston Historical Society craftsmanship awards to the Junior High School last June 13. Christopher Arthur Larsen received a Paul Revere Bowl and the following citation from President Travis:

> "In recognition of the outstanding skill and beauty exhibited by the 'Monk's Chair,' . . . created from the wood of the famous and historic Burgoyne Elm Tree, the Weston Historical Society's First Prize is hereby awarded to Christopher Arthur Larsen."

Similar citations of honorable mention were presented to William Paine Grant ("Lazy Susan"), David Joseph Farrell, Jr. ("Spoon Rack"), and Michael Paul Zirpolo ("Hanging Clock"). The Jones House Barn had previously housed an exhibit of these and other student works.

Mr. Howard M. Forbes, Mrs. Daniel F. Viles Jr., and Mr. Galen Green comprised the awards committee. They have been reappointed for the current year, with the addition of Mr. James A. Sweeney. Mr. Forbes will again act as chairman of the group.

Regis Girls Start Second Year Of Research into Weston History

The history students of Dr. Vera Laska of Regis College are embarking upon the second year of research into various phases of Weston history. Thirty-eight students are involved in the researching of such topics as the Town Hall Archives, the Public Library Archives, the founding of Weston, the Republican Party beginnings in Weston, the Fire Department, the First Parish Church, Churches in Weston, Roads and Transportation, Weston Light Infantry Company, Recreation, Schools, and Summer Activities.

Each girl has one assigned topic and would be grateful for any aid that could be offered by Society members. If you have any information, please communicate *by letter* with Dr. Vera Laska, Regis College History Department.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

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The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
OCTOBER 1968

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1969, VOL. V, NO. 2

Mid - Winter Meeting February Fourth

For the Society's next meeting which will be held in the Country School Auditorium Tuesday evening, February fourth, at 8:00 P.M., we have engaged Mr. Arthur F. Schrader of Old Sturbridge Villige. From his treasury of Singing History programs, he will present "New England in Song and Story".

Through his lecture and renditions, he will chronicle our oral tradition as conveyed through folk music and popular song editorials. Thus will his hearers perceive and sense the moods and thoughts which evolved into our national character.

Mr. Schrader's programs have been widely acclaimed by schools, colleges, museums, historical societies, and countless service and social groups throughout the country. He will arrive in Weston early in the day and arrangements have been made for him to appear before history and music students in the Weston Public Schools from elementary to senior high school, adapting his program to those periods in history that are being studied at the time.

All members are urged to attend this amusing, interesting, and educational mid - winter meeting. Members who will be admitted free, are urged to bring guests at $1.00 each. Any guest who wishes to join the Society at that time will likewise be admitted free. A large turn - out is expected for what is sure to be another lively and worthwhile event.

Weston Welcomes Patriot's Day Guests

On Saturday the nineteenth of April, representatives of two hundred other Massachusetts local historical societies will come to Weston and Wayland for the annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. The Weston Historical Society is co-host with the Wayland Historical Society. Registration will be at the Josiah Smith Tavern at 10 o'clock in the morning. Delegates will be received in our Society's rooms and escorted on a tour of what might well be called "History Row" en route to Wayland Center where luncheon will be served at noon, in the parlors of the Unitarian Church, followed by the afternoon's business meeting which will be addressed by Mr. Stephen T. Riley of Weston.

Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, chairman of our Liaison Committee, is coordinating plans with our Wayland friends, and details will be announced in our next Bulletin. It will be a pleasure and a privilege to welcome these distinguished guests and to show them the historic sites of our Town on the 194th anniversary of the Battles of Concord and Lexington.

Retrospect and Prospect

Embarking upon our sixth year as one of the most active historical societies in the Commonwealth, we can record many accomplishments towards our goal. Those members who filled the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern on November thirteenth were greatly impressed by the variety and scope of the annual reports given by officers and committee chairmen. It was agreed that our work deserves the wholehearted support of every resident of the Town and that our membership list should shortly double. A check for $3.00 single or for $5.00 family, payable to Weston Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193 would be welcomed from every Weston home.

Other features of the fall season were Hallock Marsh's lecture on "The Blacksmith and His Art" accompanied by his exhibit of "Grandpa's Tools" and the portrayal before a packed Town Hall audience of Weston's original 3-act play "Around The Cracker Barrel". The latter event benefitted the Isaac Fiske Law Office Restoration Fund, and on the request of the State Librarian, an autographed copy of the script has been presented to the Massachusetts State Library.

"New England in Song and Story" on February fourth, the traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner on April fifteenth at which our Historian Brenton H. Dickson will speak on "Post Rider to Sports Car", and the annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League here in Weston and Wayland on April nineteenth, are forthcoming events to which we all look forward.

Back of these most worthwhile programs, all sorts of opportunities for imaginative individual initiative and industry beckon. Listed below are the names of directors, officers, and committee chairmen, all of whom would welcome your voluntary cooperation.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since our last Bulletin:

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Brown, 6 Perry Lane, Weston.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Cantu Jr., 211 Newton Street, Weston.
Mr. and Mrs. Earl G. DeChristopher, 48 Ledgewood Road, Weston.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Ewers, Old Coach Road. Weston.
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Gallagher Jr., 10 Pigeon Hill Road, Weston.
Mr. F. Douglass Garron, 803 South Avenue, Weston.
Miss Eloise Kenney, 20 Maple Street, Weston.
Mrs. Richard G. Nickerson, 225 Winter Street, Weston.
Mr. and Mrs. W. James Parker, 33 Aberdeen Road, Weston.
Dr. Henry P. Pendergrass, 195 Meadowbrook Road, Weston.
Mrs. Frankford S. Sumner, 103 Circle Road, Staten Island, N.Y.
Miss Janet Sumner, 33 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Underhill Jr., 68 Robin Road, Weston.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Inglis Wetmore, 681 Boston Post Road, Weston.

"PROJECT RESTORATION" NEARS COMPLETION

The above sign which now adorns the front entrance of our headquarters was appropriately made by Mr. F. Leslie Ford from a 24 inch native pine board that he salvaged from an old New England church built in 1810. The lettering he used is likewise typical of the early 19th century, and though the sign is new, its material and lettering are as old as the building itself.

Volunteers are still needed to help us apply the finishing touches to our 1805 Law Office. Call 899-8171 or 899-4515 for assignments.

DIRECTORS: J. Kenneth Bennett, John G. Brooks, Brenton H. Dickson, Erlund Field, Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Harry B. Jones, Grant M. Palmer, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, Harold G. Travis, and Harold B. Willis, Jr., PRESIDENT: Harold G. Travis. VICE PRESIDENT: Charles P. Gorely, Jr. SECRETARY: Mrs. Robert P. Cook. TREASURER: Roy L. Dickson. ARCHIVIST — CURATOR: Mrs. James E. Fraser, PROGRAM: Mrs. Richard Albrecht. HOSPITALITY: Mrs. Reginald Wells. MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. Joseph Stubbs. LAW OFFICE RESTORATION: Mr. F. Leslie Ford, INFORMATION: Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner.

The Parson Woodward House *

Parson Samuel Woodward, Weston's second minister, was called to the church in the spring of 1751 and ordained in September of that year. The following March he bought thirty acres of land on Concord Road, opposite the present Fiske Lane, from a William Smith, and paid about two hundred and thirteen pounds for it. "Probably the buyer and the seller sought refuge from the bitter March winds in the neighboring tavern of Samuel Baldwin (1) and settled the terms of the bargain over mugs of flip, or a jug of hard cider. There were present at this interview, presumably sharing in the good cheer, Col. Francis Fullam, Elisha Jones, Esq., and mine host himself, — Weston worthies all three, who signed as witnesses to the deed." The Parson must have started building immediately, for in less than ten months he was married, and with his bride, moved into the new home.

The original house was rectangular in shape without either of the ells it has at present. "The interior arrangement..... has not been materially altered. There is the front entrance hall from which lead off the front stairs (with two square landings) going to the second story, the dining room leading off the hall to the right and the parlor to the left. Behind the parlor was the Parson's Study, and behind the dining room was the kitchen and back hall, communicating with the side door. The kitchen..... contained an open fireplace with a large crane where the cooking was done, and an oven on the side of the fireplace for baking, — the fire being only lighted under it on baking days. Upstairs were four bedrooms and the front and back halls, and from the latter, a steep flight of stairs went into the attic."

"The salary first offered to the Parson was a little over sixty-six pounds a year plus one hundred and thirty-three pounds to induce him to settle in Weston. On such meager income, supplemented by small amounts paid to him in lieu of firewood, he managed to support himself and his wife and twelve children with whom they were blessed, between the years 1753 and 1776. Although three children died very young, one smallpox, there yet remained nine to clothe and feed. Yet this was done, and two sons were sent to college."

Early in his married life, the Parson began increasing his income by boarding college students. "The names of a few of these written on the doors of closets in the house give unconscious testimoney to the fact of struggle for existence which must have gone on."

The Parson died in 1782. He might be called "the War Parson of the Town," for his pastorate began two years before Braddock's Defeat and ended one year before the surrender at Yorktown.

After his death his widow remained in the house "with at least six of their nine children, and the struggle without the salary must have been desperate." The Town sympathized with the distressed family, paid the Parson's funeral expenses, and granted his widow a year's salary. Twice (1785 and 1786) she petitioned the Town for an abatement of her taxes and each time her petition was granted. Records show that "the Town was rather loathe to grant such petitions, so there must have been a real need, and a real affection of the people for their late Pastor.

"To increase the troubles of the widow, her horse died during the first year after her husband's death, and her barrel of pork and of corn meal and

**Excerpts from a speech by the late Andrew Fiske who was born in this house in* 1854.

(1) *Between the present Trowbridge garage and the Post Road, — not on the knoll as sometimes "mislocated".*

one of the two 'piggs' mentioned in the inventory of her husband's estate had to be used in the support of her family. Probably her daughter Sarah, who who was a dressmaker, plied her trade in the house, and eked out her mother's scanty income."

"Nor were her straightened circumstances the least of the widow's troubles". Within eleven years of her husband's death Mrs. Woodward lost five children including her eldest son Samuel, a graduate of Harvard, and her daughter Abigail, second wife of the Rev. Samuel Kendal who succeeded Parson Woodward in the pastorate.

"But the darkest part of the night came as usual just before the dawn. Within a year after her daugher's death, Mrs. Woodward's second daughter, Miranda, became the third wife of Dr. Kendal" and soon afterwards she herself became the wife of Col. Thomas Marshall, a well-to-do widower who lived in a fine mansion on Highland Street. This building many years later was moved to Church Street and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas West.

Shortly before the marriage, Mrs. Woodward conveyed all her dower or other rights in her late husband's estate to her son-in-law Samuel Kendal in consideration of his executing a bond to pay her $46.67 annually for the rest of her life. As she lived for ten more years this consideration cost Dr. Kendal nearly $500.00.

The Kendals owned other property in town and having no need for the old homestead, sold it to Artemas Ward, a well-known lawyer who held many town offices and represented Weston in the General Court. But Ward had his own house, (which still stands a few rods from its original location, at the junction of Concord Road and the Post Road), so he rented the Woodward house to a Dr. Amos Bancroft. This was in 1796. A short while afterwards Dr. Bancroft bought the house and two acres of land, and probably added the easternmost ell, a predecessor of the present one. "I know of no actual proof of this except that Rev. Mr. Woodward would hardly have been able to have built it, and there is a tradition in our family that the room in the ell, used in my day as a kitchen, had once been used for a doctor's office. As children we were told the story that from a certain nail or hook in the ceiling, the doctor used to have hanging a skeleton, and we used to glance at this nail half frightened."

In 1810 Dr. Bancroft moved to Groton but he retained ownership of his Weston house, renting it to various people until 1829 when he finally sold it to Jonathan Stearns, a Boston merchant. Stearns only lived there about a year before selling the property to John Jones of Weston, a member of the firm of M. & J. Jones, harness makers. Jones later became co-owner of the Josiah Smith Tavern and was the grandfather of Alice and Ellen Jones, often referred to as "The Jones Girls".

During the Jones occupancy, Mrs. Jones' sister kept a school for small children in the house, and one of her pupils was George W. Cutting whom many of Weston's older residents remember either in his capacity as Town Clerk or as proprietor of the general store. Also at this same time, a Marshall Smith carried on a shoemaking business in the most northerly of the upper rooms of the ell.

In 1848 John Jones sold the property to Augustus H. Fiske of Boston, a native of Weston and the son of Isaac Fiske who owned the law office now occupied by the Weston Historical Society. The house has remained in the Fiske family ever since, and now belongs to the Wilkinsons, Mr. Fiske's decendants.

The above is the sixth in a series of articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

JANUARY 1969

MR. & MRS. EDWARD M. MARSHALL
10 CRESCENT ST.
WESTON, MASS.

8

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

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Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President

Mr. Harold G. Travis

899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 25c.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MARCH 1969, Vol. V, No. 3

"Reverend Joseph Fiske (left) and Isaac Fiske Esq. Probably taken in 1861 by the east entrance of the Fiske Field House".

Charter Anniversary Dinner
The *Year's Biggest* Event

Several hundred of us and our guests are looking forward to our traditional "Charter Anniversary Dinner" on Tuesday evening, April 15, 1969 at the Cafeteria of the Senior High School when our Historian, Brent Dickson, will talk about how people and goods were transported from the earliest times up to the present. Make your reservations early, for you won't want to miss this delightful evening of fellowship and good food. Dinner will be served at 6:45 and Mrs. Reginald D. Wells is in charge of decorations and hostesses. Between courses there will be appropriate music by several members of the talented "Dixieland Jazz Group of Weston," headed by Raymond C. Boshco. Our Program Committee, of which Mrs. Albrecht is chairman, is once again to be congratulated for arranging the highlight of the year.

Reservations must be received no later than April 10, but please send your checks now, payable to "Weston Historical Society," addressed simply to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193. The charge will be $3.50 per person and as no tickets will be printed, you will be checked in as you arrive. The amount of your check indicates to us the number in your party. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy a most worthwhile evening. This is the only notice you will receive.

Weston Honored by Bay State League's Annual Spring Meeting April Nineteenth

Our Society welcomes to Weston the members of the Bay State Historical League, as co-hosts with Wayland Historical Society, on Saturday, April 19, 1969. Members of more than 200 local historical societies of Massachusetts will begin arriving at 9:15 a.m. to register at our rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern, ("The Jones House"). We want you on hand to help us welcome them. Doughnuts and coffee will be served under the direction of our Hospitality Committee, headed by Mrs. Reginald Wells. Delegates will be treated to a tour of our historic museum under the direction of Mrs. James E. Fraser, Curator. Members of her committee will be attired in costumes of various early periods. A special exhibit of old Weston records and photographs will be on display in the ball room upstairs.

From the Josiah Smith Tavern our guests will be guided to the Isaac Fiske Law Office where Mr. and Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and their committee will demonstrate progress and plans for its restoration. Thence they will proceed across the street to the Rev. Joseph Field House, now owned and recently restored by Mr. and Mrs. Horace Nichols, as described elsewhere in this issue. Re-crossing the Post Road, the delegates will enter the Golden Ball Tavern where hostesses headed by Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gambrill Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Homer C. Lucas and Mrs. Lewis W. Mustard III will guide them through this historic restoration. A map and short description of each place to be visited has been prepared and will be distributed.

From the Golden Ball Tavern, the tour proceeds to the Heard House in Wayland Center, headquarters of the Wayland Historical Society, and to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Vinsonhaler, next door to the Wayland Unitarian Church. Our co-hosts will serve luncheon in the Church rooms at noon. Promptly at 2 p.m., a meeting of the Bay State Historical League will be called to order. All our members are invited to attend. It will be of double interest to our Society, since one of our charter members, Stephen T. Riley, who is vice-president of The League, will give the address of the day. His subject will be The Honorable Samuel Savage, a Westonian prominent in the Revolution.

We hope every one of our members will turn out for this occasion and host our guests from Nantucket to North Adams. It will be a pleasure to meet so many interesting people. We need you.

Membership Grows Steadily

Since our last Bulletin, the following have been welcomed into our Society as members: Mr. and Mrs. John T. DeCamp, Mr. and Mrs John N. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Rand, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic C. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Uhlir, Miss Claulia A. Resulis.

The Fiske-Field House

Jean C. Nichols

I first saw the Fiske-Field house about ten years ago and fell in love with it at first sight. "Someday I'm going to own that house," I remarked boldly, fully realizing the idea was preposterous. Yet, whenever I had a mission to perform in Wayland I purposely went out of my way to drive by it and sometimes I went so far as to park at a discreet distance across the street and gaze at it. Many a cloudy mood was dispelled this way!

Shortly after I began dreaming about "my house" I met the owners, the George Sauerweins, and with unaccustomed audacity mentioned that if they were ever to consider selling it to let me know. Major Sauerwein remembered and when I went to look at the house on a lovely sunny day, it almost seemed to speak to me. For financial reasons my husband and I decided not to buy it and we shed many a tear over that necessary decision. Then, in an attempt to put the house out of my mind I found a new route to Wayland.

In the spring of 1967 a friend of mine asked, "Did you know that the Sauerwein house is for sale again?" All I could say was "Oh, no," as forbidden dreams came flooding in, paint colors, wall coverings, winter porches removed etc. etc. I called my husband as soon as I got home. "Guess what?" I asked. He sensed my excitement and replied, "The Sauerwein house must be for sale again." I went to see it that afternoon; my husband went that evening, the appraiser went the following morning and before the day was out, it belonged to us. The rest of the story should go, "And they all lived happily ever after." But such a statement can't be made when there is an old house to be restored — it must be postponed until the restoration work is complete. And restoration work, properly done is a slow, laborious job, outrageously expensive and hampered by an acute shortage of skilled workers. We were shocked when the estimates came in and considered doing only the necessary structural work and re-selling. What a gray morning! The house looked especialy cold and damp and we questioned our sanity in undertaking such a project. A Rockefeller or a Ford might, but not a Nichols!

Suddenly my husband remarked, "Let's go ahead. If we don't do it now we never will." From then on it was I who faltered and he who upheld me and his confidence in its feasibility even during those darker moments when we discovered that sills had rotted in places and were non-existent in others, that the powder post beetle had been at work and that all the wiring and plumbing and heating must be replaced at astronomical prices. Although my interest in old houses dates from childhood and I had made studies concerning interior architectural detail, appropriate colors, fabrics and furniture, the enormity of the task ahead was too much to tackle without assistance. We got Mr. John Cole of Boston as a consultant and through him secured the services of Mr. John D. Sullivan of Newton as contractor. Mr. Sullivan's impressive work at the Golden Ball Tavern has been admired by many; his men are all great artisans who take pride in their workmanship. We felt lucky to be in such good hands.

The restoration began in September 1967 and was completed in August 1968. Making the house as structurally sound as possible was the first great project — replacing sills, stemming beetle activity and bracing the front foundation against further onslaughts of time, then a new cedar roof, checking the chimneys and installing new heating, wiring and plumbing — and a fire alarm to prevent any recurrence of the disaster of December 10, 1900 when the Weston Fire Brigade laid 800 feet of hose to the closest hydrants and saved the house from being burned to the ground. Behind the partitions etc. we found nothing so romantic as Paul Revere silver or cans filled with money, but we did find, under our breakfast-room, a twenty foot well which we have glassed over and lighted as a conversation piece.

The Fiske-Field house stands on land bought by Isaac Fiske between 1802 and 1805. There was a building on the land when Mr. Fiske sold the property to Widow Bigelow in 1808. Five years later he bought it back from her. Both transactions were in consideration of $1,000. By 1815, the house seems to have been considerably enlarged and that year it was sold to the Rev. Joseph Field for $4,500. Mr. Field was the minister of the First Parish in Weston for fifty years and upon his death was laid to rest in the

cemetery across the street. His descendants lived in the house until the early nineteen-thirties. For the next several years the house was rented and finally sold to the Sauerweins. They occupied it for twenty years and in 1964 sold it to Samuel D. Bush, who in turn sold it to the Horace S. Nichols in 1967.

There is some evidence supporting the theory that the house you see today was built in three stages — at first a simple one-over-one dwelling with the present side door its front entrance. The present dining room and the bedroom above it constituted the first alteration while the remainder of the house — the front hall and two living rooms were added around 1813. This part of the house seems closer to the Empire period although the center hall running through the house is certainly Federal in feeling.

In restoring this house we have tried to create an atmosphere compatible with an early nineteenth century dwelling, using appropriate colors, wall coverings, hardware, lighting fixtures and furniture. Stripping paint and adding new materials have been held to a minimum. The bathrooms and modern kitchen are utilitarian and need no further comment.

On entering the front door, one is greeted by a gracious front hall at the far end of which is a door communicating with a formal English garden dating back to 1910. The hall is probably late Federal with Zuber wallpaper (manufactured in France) of the El Dorado pattern. As this pattern was not introduced until 1849, the paper was probably hung about 1850. At the left of the front hall is a double living room. When we bought the house, the dividing partition was placed in such a way that a beam across the ceiling was necessary to support the second floor. It was probably installed about 1910. We were able to remove this beam by building a new wall where it should have been placed originally and we incorporated shelves between it and the existing wall. The fireplaces were restored to their former size. We had a hunch that they had once been deeper and underlying charred bricks proved us right. The old floor boards have long since gone and what one sees now is of a later type.

Across the hall from the back living room is the kitchen. It is equipped with Shaker type cabinets which seem to be compatible with modern appliances yet give some feeling of transition to an earlier time. The breakfast room adjacent to the kitchen was the old shed. It is Shaker in feeling though not authentically so. The ceiling is rough flooring taken from the master bedroom during elimination of the living room beam. Between the kitchen and dining room is a side hall. At one time there was a box stairway going to the second floor from here. The original position of the kitchen door and that of the bedroom above were found by markings on the old plaster.

The dining room is perhaps the most formal room in the house. The brass chandelier has been used out of personal preference although crystal would have been more correct. The fireplace has been rebuilt and the new mantle is a copy of one at "The Vale" in Waltham. The old wooden shutters have been made operative again and these add greatly to the charm of the room.

When we bought the house there was a bathroom at the top of the front stairs occupying an area that was originally part of the hall. Removing this has given a feeling of space that was lacking when the bathroom was there. The first bedroom on the left, which had been reduced in size prior to our ownership, made possible a bathroom between it and the master bedroom. The master bedroom is still its original shape and size. The wall to wall carpeting and the king-size bed are hardly in keeping with 1805 standards, but from the point of view of comfort they are certainly not out of place.

Across the hall from the master bedroom, over the dining room, is a room more authentically furnished. No king-size bed here but one with a canopy and claw and ball feet. Adjoining this room is a narrow hallway with stairs going up to the quarters of two teenage boys. There, upper floor rooms are furnished in teenage boy style. There is ample headroom for during the 1910 renovation the roof was raised and made more Georgian.

Beyond the narrow hallway on the second floor and with a door leading into the front hall is the fourth bedroom, furnished with commercial adaptations of colonial furniture which are more boyproof than originals. A passageway from this room leads to several rooms of 1910 vintage — a sitting room, study, bath, laundry and playroom. Though not historic, these rooms are livable and add a comfortable dimension to our life.

The Weston Historical Commission

The Society is delighted to congratulate its five members who have been appointed by the Board of Selectmen under the article that was unanimously voted at last fall's special town meeting on motion of our Recording Secretary, Mr. John G. Brooks, to comprise the Weston Historical Commission. Appointed are: Mr. Brenton H. Dickson, Mr. Erlund Field, Mrs. Margaret Floyd, Dr. Vera Laska, and Mr. Homer C. Lucas. Each is eminently qualified to see that our historic landmarks and records are protected.

Recent Gifts

Our Curator, Mrs. Fraser, advises that the Society has recently been the grateful recipient of the following; — Flax wheel and raw flax fiber: Mrs. Dorothy Rice; — two handmade nightgowns of the 1860 period: Miss Anna Hall; — old letters and papers: Estate of Helen Warren Cutting; — three photographs of the Town's 200th Anniversary Pageant: Mrs. Helen Crouse Lovewell and Miss Lenore Crouse; — Day Book of Edward L. Cutting: Estate of Mrs. Edward P. Ripley. A large list of donations to our headquarters in the Isaac Fiske Law Office will be published in our next issue. We are grateful to all who thus are keeping faith with Weston's historic past.

Dr. Laska Receives New Honor

A recent issue of "The Regis Herald" announced that Vera Laska, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of History, has been named to the Directory of American Scholars 1969 which is published in cooperation with the American Council of Learned Societies. The same issue featured a long article by Dr. Laska which describes the continuing work of her history students toward the college's objective of publishing a history of Weston as their contribution to the town in 1975, on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the Revolutionary War. In her article she says "Especially helpful are the members of the Weston Historical Society..... Our young historians are contributing to the friendly relations between Town and Gown..... Over one hundred Westonites have been interviewed already, and many more will be asked for the same favor in the future".

Dr. Laska came to Weston and Regis at just about the time our Program Committe conducted a panel discussion for us on the teaching of history in Weston's schools. She attended that meeting, joined our Society, and went immediately to work with results that have already been noteworthy and stimulating both to her students and ourselves. Her enthusiasm and energy for Weston are not only applauded and appreciated but will be generously reciprocated, we feel sure, by every member of our Society to whom she and her students may turn for assistance and guidance.

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President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin are available for 25c. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner, Bulletin Editor, 893-4346.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MARCH 1969

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

May 1969, Vol. V, No. 4

This issue of our bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Henry Whitely Patterson. Harry was one of our original directors. His leadership as chairman of Weston's Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration inspired the organization of our society. Though he patiently endured poor health, it was his contagious spirit that motivated our programs.

Eulogy by Dr. Miles Hanson
May 2, 1969

We are gathered together here in this place of hallowed memories, to express our heartfelt gratitude for the great privilege we have enjoyed of having shared the friendship and companionship of Henry Whitely Patterson, whose labors now are ended, as he rests in the peace and quietude of God's nearest presence.

Harry was blessed with a full, a rich and an unusually varied life, for which he was wholeheartedly grateful.

He always had the courage of his convictions. He served, during the First World War in the Foreign Legion of the French Army in Europe.

In the second World War, he joined the United States Air Force. He was highly honored for his skill and devotion, as he took part in the fierce battles at Guadalcanal, and the surrounding islands, which were so very important in the Great War.

He loved life in all its many aspects. He possessed a never-failing creative imagination, which made him an authority on the history of the two towns he ardently admired, Wayland and Weston. He firmly desired that the happenings in these two communities should not be forgotten, so he preserved them in the stories he wrote, taken from their very interesting history of almost three centuries. This attitude of his stimulated the formation and the direction of the Weston Historical Society which has attained such a high reputation.

He was a born playwright. His plays were highly regarded when they were performed by the First Parish Friendly of this church, of which he was a loyal and devoted member.

He was always calm in spirit, modest, sympathetic, humorous and kind.

He was unfailingly thankful for all the gifts of nature and of grace, bestowed upon him, which brought him happiness and joy.

When sickness came to him, he faced it with unbroken courage, without murmur and without complaint.

Wherever we may be, as we now go our separate ways, we shall always feel that we are all more closely bound together in the gracious bonds of friendship, because we have been privileged to share our companionship with Harry, the memories of which will remain in our hearts, unto our life's end. May we ever be loyal to the ideals he so deeply cherished.

Lively Programs Ahead

At its May twelfth meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a continuation of the type of programs that has featured every one of the many meetings which the Society has held in the past half dozen years. Emphasis as usual will be placed on the contributions of our own talented members. New skills and stories are coming to the surface and the Program Committee plans to announce a detailed schedule of forthcoming events in our next issue.

Meanwhile we look forward to more use of the Josiah Smith Tavern museum and of our new headquarters, the Isaac Fiske Law Office. A series of exhibits and teas is now being planned. Arrangements are also being made for the showing of MUSIC OF WILLIAMSBURG, a 16mm sound and full color motion picture. Against the colorful background of restored eighteenth century Williamsburg, it depicts the charm and scope of music in a colonial community. It includes the work songs of the field hands, country fiddling, the sounds of a summer storm, the songs of children at play, and as a special treat, Benjamin Franklin's harmonica is heard at a drawing-room recital.

Travel and Transportation Through Weston

Presented at the Weston Historical Society Charter Anniversary Dinner April 15, 1969 by Brenton H. Dickson.

1. Pre-stagecoach era.

Considering Weston's glorious past in the transportation picture, it seems a little ignominious that today it should be known to the outsider as the place where you pay toll on the Massachusetts Turnpike. But then, when I was young, it was known as the 'town with the chimneys.' Route 20, or Central Avenue as it was called, was the main automobile route between Boston and New York and the principal landmark in Weston was a pair of chimneys that rose prominently from a cellar hole by the side of the road. For twenty-odd years motorists traveling along the highway passed these unsightly objects and seeing them year after year no doubt wondered why they weren't pulled down. People in town wondered the same thing. There were various theories one being that George Emerson, the owner, refused to disturb them until an insurance claim had been settled while the insurance company, believing the fire of incendiary origin, refused to settle; so the stalemate persisted.

George Emerson lived beyond the cellar hole in a dilapidated shack that was surrounded by all kinds of rubbish and junk. He himself was as ungroomed as the surroundings. He had a perpetual growth of black stubble on his face and streaks of grease and grime; his clothes were old and dirty and he looked something like a scarecrow; yet out of this extraordinary creature came a voice as soft-spoken and cultivated as you could ask for. This may have been on account of a college education — or perhaps the type of person he associated with in business. His business was raising and training gamecock, and as cockfighting in New England has always been the 'gentleman's sport' his clientele was naturally of the higher order. Before the barn became too dilapidated for safety these gentlemen would congregate there to fight their cocks on the sly. Now anyone who has ever attended a New England cockfight knows the precautions that must be taken against a possible raid. It is not only illegal to hold one of these bouts — it is also illegal to attend one and guards must be posted at strategic points to warn the audience of any encroachment by the law. The mere mention of the word 'cops' precipitates a sudden scramble in all directions.

Once a young man was attending his first cockfight at Emerson's when the alarm was sounded and he escaped through a window and took to the woods. Soon he realized he was being followed and he ran as fast as he could over the rather uneven terrain. Finally he became exhausted, tripped on a fallen branch and fell to the ground. When his pursuer caught up to him he said, "I give up. Might as well arrest me. I can't go another step."

Whereupon his pursuer explained, "I'm not a cop — I've just been following you because I thought you knew the way out of here."

Now what has all this got to do with transportation? Well — the chimneys were all that remained of the historic Flagg Tavern. Though not Weston's earliest tavern by any means, in its day it was a noted hostelry which Duncan Hines, had he been living, would have heartily endorsed. Here George Washington spent the night and John Adams dined on his way to Boston — indeed many a weary traveler along the old Post Road stopped at Flagg's for rest and refreshment. It is said that at one time the 'post rider,' for whom the road was named, made periodic stops there to deliver mail, newsletters and any gossip from the outside world. The earliest post rider, who antedated the tavern by many years, was the first traveler through town who operated on schedule. Other travel, and there was plenty of it, was unscheduled.

The Post Road, or the Weston section of it, originated as an Indian trail, at first ill-defined and later marked by the hobnailed boots of the early settlers who traveled on foot. Even colonial governors walked to their destinations. Sometimes they were carried across the streams 'piggy-back' by their Indian guides and there is an account of Governor Winthrop's crossing a stream by this method. The hoofs of cattle made these trails better defined and trees were blazed to serve as guideposts.

Two important Indian trails diverged near the western boundary of town — the Bay Path which went to Sudbury, Marlboro and on to Worcester and the Old Connecticut Path which veered off to the south through Framingham and Grafton. As near as I can tell, the Bay Path went across the Wayland Plains through the old East Sudbury Village, across the river and over the hills to what is now South Sudbury. This was undoubtedly the route of the first post riders and the early stagecoaches. The present Route 20 through Wayland is of more recent origin.

Long distance travelers on these early roads were principally merchants and pedlars, artisans, an occasional clergyman and, in times of war, soldiers. As the roads became

better marked travelers began to go on horseback. An ingenious method of travel, known as 'riding and tying' made it possible for two men to share a single horse. One of them would ride an agreed distance while the other followed on foot. At the end of the distance the rider would dismount, tie the horse to a tree and walk on ahead. His companion, when he got to the horse, would mount it, overtake his walking friend and proceed to the next tying point. This technique gave both rider and horse a chance to get some rest and it was possible to travel all day without stopping.

On January 22, 1673 the first post rider left New York and arrived in Boston two weeks later having traveled via New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, Worcester and Weston. Within a month he was back in New York again. He continued running his route, leaving monthly, until August when service was discontinued because the Dutch had taken possession of the city. Then came King Philip's war which further interrupted service, but in 1685 the route was reestablished and continued until the Revolution. By this time the road, or trail was in better condition and a Boston-New York post went weekly in summer and fortnightly during the winter months. The rider covered about 50 miles a day. There was not too much communication between the two cities — no more mail than could be carried in a pair of saddlebags.

The early post rider was a well informed individual for he not only picked up gossip in the towns along the route but he also took time off to read and digest the letters he carried. Government officials, realizing this, were apt to use code in communicating with one another. On Post Day, when the rider was due in town, the inhabitants would assemble in the local tavern for the distribution of mail, if there was any, and of newsletters and of course, the rider's hearsay.

Besides being a sworn messenger, the post rider was also required to assist any travelers who chose to accompany him, to direct them to the best roads and the best places to stop for a meal or for the night. He was also an early version of today's *moonlighter* in that he managed to do a certain amount of trading on the side, delivering cattle for farmers and transacting business for his own account and for the account of others. His schedule was not so tight that he couldn't do this. One rider, when he had extra time on his hands, was noted for knitting sweaters and scarfs as his horse shuffled along unguided.

The charge for postage was determined by the mile and in order that there be no mistake about this Benjamin Franklin, while postmaster, put milestones between Boston and New York. These were known as 'Franklinstones' and there are few, if any, left in their original locations. Franklin had a device hitched to the wheel of his carriage that registered mileage and at each mile a stone was dropped and set in place by a gang of diggers who followed him. This was in 1753, nearly 80 years after the first post rider made the trip from New York to Boston.

Roads were still very primitive. Rural inhabitants were not concerned with long distance travel and were not in favor of improving thoroughfares for the benefit of outsiders. A village was an independent community and self-sufficient. Women of the farm spun cloth from the wool of sheep they had grown; grain was harvested for the cattle and vegetables for the family. When cattle was slaughtered for meat the farmer dressed the hides and took them to the local artisan to be made into shoes. There was always a grist mill not too far away where grain could be taken and ground into flour. And so the only real need for roads as the farmer saw it, was for the weekly trip to church and an occasional visit to the store to buy various articles or sell any surplus produce.

Until well into the 19th century all private travel was by horseback. The farmers used a pillion — a double saddle where the woman sat behind the man. Bundles and articles of small freight were carried in baskets called 'paniers'. It was not uncommon to see a man with his wife and small family aboard a single horse either on their way to church or perhaps to visit some neighbors. Carriages were for the cities. Wheeled vehicles traveling country roads were for freight only. They were drawn by oxen if transporting heavy goods such as lumber and firewood or by horses if laden with perishables. The driver walked beside the wagon and guided the animals — he never rode. During the daylight hours a constant procession of teams traveled the important thoroughfares and so Weston got its full share of traffic — wagons, cattle drivers and, on North Avenue, turkeys from New Hampshire and Vermont which were driven down to Boston in large flocks every autumn.

Taverns for the accommodation of these travelers rapidly came into being and many householders capitalized on the situation by putting up people for the night, which explains why many old houses are said to have served as taverns at one time or another. In Weston there were several taverns operating exclusively as such and a number of these achieved notoriety in Revolutionary times and enjoyed prosperity in the stagecoaching era that followed.

(to be continued)

The second installment will deal with stagecoaches and taverns and the third with railroads, busses and planes.

An Outstanding Award

The Weston Historical Society is happy to announce that an award has been made to establish the planting of a simple, old fashioned garden at its headquarters, the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office at 626 Boston Post Road. This is a joint cooperative effort of the Country Garden Club, the Garden Interest Group of the Weston Community League, and the Weston Garden Club.

At the 42nd annual meeting of the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs on May 21, 1969, Mr. Philip M. Read, Regional Director of Public Relations of the Sears, Roebuck & Co. presented a check for $200 to Mrs. Reginald D. Wells, District Director. This civic beautification program is jointly sponsored by the Sears, Roebuck & Co., and the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs of which Mrs. Ralph A. Parker of Wayland is chairman. Not only is this award a most helpful addition to our Restoration Fund, but even more significantly it is a worthy tribute to the spirit of Weston as exemplified by the manner in which our three garden club organizations are working together constantly for the preservation of Weston's natural beauty.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

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The Weston Historical Society Bulletin

MAY 1969

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1969, Vol. VI, No. 1

Isaac Fiske's Desk

One of many appropriate and attractive features of our headquarters at 626 Boston Post Road. On its right is one of the 1850 handcarved oak chairs that once graced the study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Our Next Event

On Friday evening, October 24, at 8 P.M. at the Country School the musical, pictorial film, MUSIC OF WILLIAMSBURG, will be shown.

Against the colorful background of restored Williamsburg this picture depicts the charm and scope of music in a colonial community.

You'll see a seafarer from Liverpool, the fifers and drummers of the Colonial militia, merchants and craftsmen. You'll hear country fiddling, the work songs of the field hands and the sound of Benjamin Franklin's glass armonica. (That's the way he spelled it.)

No charge for members. Dollar contributions for guests will be most acceptable.

The "What, Who, When and How" of Weston History

WHAT made Weston the great little town that it is? These green fields and forests, the picturesque Town Green, parks, cemeteries, winding roads, and buildings both private and public, didn't just happen. Weston's esprit de corps, surpassed by none and equalled by few towns, has always been a matter of record, and once again has just been exemplified by the spontaneous beautification of the Kendal Green railroad station not alone by those who still commute to Boston by train but by others who, recognizing its historic value, wanted to lend a hand just as a few years ago, citizens by the score at the time of the 250th Anniversary of the Town's incorporation brought forth a new park in an equally prominent spot.

WHO it was that made Weston the lovely town it has always been makes no difference. The host of people who have worked for this community over three hundred years and more did so not for personal gain but were motivated by their pride in the town. Their satisfaction came from working together for the common good, and we of today must emulate their example if we are to preserve and protect the character of this community despite its growth.

WHEN is yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Just as the Weston of today is due to people who cared enough to work for it, so must we now in every conscious effort, strain and strive to protect what is unique and beautiful. If history were only yesterday and ended there, coming generations would soon lose our spirit. In restoring and preserving the best of what's old, we establish something real in the hearts and minds of our youth. Had no one recently cared, what would have happened to the Josiah Smith and Golden Ball Taverns, the Isaac Fiske Law Office, the John W. Scott house and many other magnificent examples of Colonial times? A hundred years from now, suppose nobody would currently have recognized the unique character and stately beauty of many of our more recently built buildings such as the Library, the Town Hall, the Fire Station, and yes, the two railroad stations at Weston and Kendal Green? Indeed history is being made today and as we give way to progress in architectural style, let us make sure that we fight to preserve the best of today for the sake of tomorrow.

HOW can we, the members of Weston Historical Society, best work to this end? First of all, our example by being members is contagious to the extent that by our deeds as well as words, we show that we are doing something to preserve and protect the town's image. After all, the Weston Historical Society is the very heart and soul of Weston. Its membership, open to all, is town-wide and there is no reason why every single soul in this town should not be glad to support our united effort by joining and taking part. Have you done as much as you can to bring your neighbors and friends into our enthusiastic group? Let's see what we each can do to swell our ranks. Also we want volunteers for our active program. The three garden clubs of Weston won an award for the design of the new bulb garden behind our Law Office headquarters. Who will volunteer to keep it weeded and tasteful? Who will step forward without being asked, to help maintain, catalogue, and display the many historic objects and records in our possession? Come forward and be welcomed for your active interest in any field you feel is historically worthwhile. Then indeed will you, and we all, fully come to realize "The What, Who, When and How" of Weston history.

Travel and Transportation Through Weston

Presented at the Weston Historical Society Charter Anniversary Dinner April 15, 1969 by Brenton H. Dickson.

2. Pre-stagecoach era.

The first successful stagecoach on the Boston Post Road was operated by Captain Levi Pease of Shrewsbury, "captain" being a courtesy title given to stage drivers. In 1783 he inaugurated service between Boston and Hartford despite considerable criticism and ridicule. "The time may come," a Boston hack driver said, "when the public will support a stage from Hartford to Boston but not in your day or mine." Nevertheless, Pease went ahead with the project and not long afterwards got a contract to carry mail and extended his route to New York.

Early stagecoaches were uncomfortable affairs with no springs to take up the shock of the rough roads and no backs to the seats which were essentially planks laid across the body of the vehicle. The entrance was in front and in order to reach the back seat — a preferred location because there you had something to lean against — the passenger must climb over all the other seats. Most coaches were equipped with leather curtains which could be let down in rainy weather and buttoned up when it was fair. Nine passengers and driver was the usual capacity and any luggage was stowed under the passengers' feet. During spring when the mud was deep, "mud wagons," open affairs with three or four seats and no cover, were substituted. This whole method of travel was fraught with discomfort — or as one stagecoach passenger remarked, "It's a help to shift your position now and then and be bruised in a new place."

Passengers were expected to get out and walk up steep hills and to push the vehicle through snowdrifts or deep mudholes. The story is told of a time when the passengers flatly refused to get out and help. The perplexed driver sat down on a log by the side of the road and lit his pipe and when the passengers complained, he calmly answered, "Since them horses can't pull the carriage out of the mudhole and you won't help, we'll just have to sit here and wait till the dern thing dries up."

In retrospect, the stagecoach era may seem picturesque but a journey could be quite unpleasant. On a summer day there was intense heat and great volumes of dust stirred up by the horses hooves as they galloped along the parched highway and on a rainy day, great mud puddles through which the unguarded wheels churned, splashed mud and water onto the passengers. In winter the intense cold was bad enough but when the coach ran into a blinding snowstorm the discomforts were all but unbearable. Moreover, the journey was apt to start at an unreasonably early hour — two or three in the morning with several hours of travel before daylight. Longfellow, in describing a trip to Howe's Tavern in Sudbury (Wayside Inn) wrote: "The stage left Boston about three o'clock in the morning, reaching the Sudbury Tavern for breakfast, a considerable portion of the route being traveled in total darkness, and without your having the least idea who your companion might be."

When Levi Pease began operating, the distance from Boston to New York was 254 miles and the trip took a week. Over the next half century the roads were straightened and the distance cut down to 210 miles and the traveling time reduced to 1½ days. Most travelers, rather than get shaken to bits on the road, preferred to go by coach to Rhode Island and the rest of the way by sloop. But inland travel must still use the highway and during the first third of the nineteenth century the era of stagecoaching got into full swing. In Badger and Porter's Stage Register for 1830 we find 42 stagecoaches a week passing through Weston via North Avenue (Route 117) and nearly as many more on the Boston Post Road. The North Avenue coaches used four routes to Albany, one to Deerfield and one to Fitchburg. There were five routes on the Post Road, two of which went to Albany, two to Worcester via Sudbury and Marlboro, and another to Worcester via the Old Connecticut Path through Saxonville and Framingham.

Taverns in Weston where stages stopped were Daggett's on North Avenue and Flagg's on the Post Road. The earliest tavern in Weston was Baldwin's across from the Isaac Fiske Law Office and this as well as Flagg's, the Golden Ball and Josiah Smith

taverns, antedated the stagecoach and for many years served travelers on horseback, transient teamsters and thirsty citizens. Overnight guests were packed into tavern rooms regardless of whether or not they were strangers. Sometimes curtains were drawn around beds to give a feeling of privacy. Teamsters slept on the barroom floor near the fireplace or in the attic to which they often gained access by outside ladders so as not to offend the more genteel guests who could afford to pay for a bed.

The landlord of a sophisticated tavern such as we had in Weston was a genial soul and was usually standing at the door with a smile, ready to welcome his guests when they arrived. These men were often practical jokesters and a favorite stunt was to measure the girth of an obese customer and calculate the price of the dinner accordingly. And if an oversized traveler purchased two seats in the coach so he would have plenty of room, he was apt to find, on arriving at the coach, that one was inside and the other on top!

Licenses to sell liquor were given to the early taverns providing they were near a meeting house. During the winter the poorly built houses of worship were unbearably cold and drafty and in summer hot as an oven and the tavern offered welcome refreshment during the "nooning" period between morning and afternoon services. Alcohol was considered far less degrading and harmful than tobacco. Planting and use of tobacco was tolerated for medicinal purposes only. In Colonial times no smoking was allowed in public or in the presence of strangers. Two men couldn't smoke together or within two miles of the meeting house on Sundays. In Connecticut a man was allowed only one smoke in a journey of ten miles!

Liquor, on the other hand, was considered a necessity in New England. Even little children were given hot toddies to stop them crying. This was an infallible remedy for wind in the stomach. Almost everyone imbibed frequently although drunkenness was not too common. At weddings, funerals, church raisings and all kinds of gatherings a liberal supply of intoxicating drinks was deemed proper and healthful. Cider was a very common drink and as apple trees were not grafted this was the only use for the fruit they bore — which explains why, during the early temperance movements, whole orchards were cut down. If a caller was offered a mug of cider and the host apologized by saying, "I'm afraid it's pretty hard," the polite reply would be, "But it's harder when there is none."

Blackstrap, a combination of rum and molasses, was a popular drink and very inexpensive. Josiah Quincy remarked that blackstrap was a composition of which the secret, he hoped, reposed with the lost arts. "Of all the detestable drinks on which our American genius has expressed itself, this blackstrap was truly the most outrageous." Even so, a cask of rum and molasses could be found wherever liquor was served with salted codfish hanging nearby to stimulate the thirst of the potential customer. New England rum was more famous for its quantity and cheapness than for its excellence and it was blended with various ingredients and given such names as "mimbo" and "flip" and into these concoctions a red hot iron or "loggerhead" was inserted to make them creamy with foam and to give a burnt and bitter taste.

At a New England minister's ordination in 1785, eighty people attended and drank thirty bowls of punch before going to meeting. Sixty-eight of these people stayed to dinner and drank forty-four more bowls besides 18 bottles of wine, 8 bottles of brandy and a quantity of cherry rum. The account fails to mention how large the bowls were and whether the bottle were quarts or pints.

In the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries stagecoaching had become so important that there was a real need for better roads and as New England townspeople were reluctant to improve town roads for the benefit of outsiders, turnpikes financed by private capital came into being. These were sometimes referred to as "artificial roads" because they weren't made of local dirt but of gravel and fill brought in from nearby sources. The tollgates in Massachusetts were usually placed about 10 miles apart. Travelers who turned off on an intersecting road just short of a tollgate and joined the turnpike again on the next intersecting road were known as "shunpikers."

The first turnpike in Massachusetts went from Warren to Palmer and was incorporated in 1796. In the next 18 years, 97 more were chartered in the state. The Worcester Turnpike, the present Route 9, was incorporated in 1806. It was believed that shortening

the distance between Boston and Worcester would make this highway an important stage route but it didn't work that way; the coaches mostly continued on their old routes in order to get local business. Besides, the Worcester Turnpike was quite hilly. It is said that the surveyors from Boston lacked courage to locate in new and untried places and they more or less followed old roads as far as Brookline Village where they stopped for refreshment at the Punch Bowl Tavern. Afterwards, when they resumed their surveying, lack of courage was no longer any problem and they gaily laid their compasses for the longest possible straight lines ignoring hills, dales and other topographical obstacles.

Straightness seems to be a characteristic of the old turnpikes. As a result they went up and down too many hills to be practical and most of them in New England were financial failures. Except for the present Massachusetts Turnpike, no other has ever gone through Weston nor was Weston much affected by those in neighboring towns. The Worcester coaches still passed along the Post Road although a New York stage or two took the new and shorter route.

But the turnpike as well as the stagecoach was soon to be replaced by the railway and the coachman's horn by the steam whistle. The taverns were also doomed. With the advent of the railroad they would lose their transient businesses and with the advent of the temperance movement, their attraction as a place for meeting and good fellowship. Resolutions were signed by benevolent citizens who realized the evils of the demon rum and even little children were taught to abhor the stuff through the medium of moral rhymes such as the following:

Ladies and gentlemen — list to my song
Hurrah for temperance all the day long.
I'll taste not, touch not, handle not wine
And every little boy like me a temperance pledge should sign.

A Framingham clergyman who liked a little nip now and then was approached by a young crusader and asked to sign the pledge. He read the terms of the instrument aloud and when he came to the provision "unless under the advice of my physician" he agreed to sign and added that he wished it clearly understood that he was his own physician.

This same man was apt to visit the tavern every morning for his toddy and one very cold day he said, "Landlord — we'll have our toddy extra hot and extra strong this morning." The landlord brought the toddy and two glasses and hung around a minute, but as no invitation to drink was forthcoming, he left. Later that morning the old gentleman was picked up from the roadside by a passing Samaritan and carried home. Next morning he called at the tavern and told the landlord that something was wrong with yesterday's toddy.

"I know," said the landlord. "When you ordered it you said '*we'll* have *our* toddy extra hot and extra strong.' I thought *we* meant you and I, so I made double the usual quantity — and you drank it all."

"Hm," said the clergyman, "I see. In the future I must be more careful in the use of — er — the personal pronoun."

In New England railroading, Weston nearly scored another first, for the Boston and Worcester Railroad passed within its borders although there were no stops in town. The first train operating on this line went from Boston to Newton in May 1834 but by August, when trains were running through Weston to Wellesley, the Boston and Providence had already initiated service as far as Dedham. The Fitchburg Railroad through Kendal Green was completed eleven years later and now the only stagecoach through town met the train at Stony Brook and took passengers and mail to Weston, Wayland, Sudbury and Marlboro, and continued operating until the Central Massachusetts was completed in 1886.

The next and last installment of this article will deal with railroads and other forms of modern transportation.

Annual Meeting November 17th

Every member, which means *every* member, is urged to attend our annual business meeting in the Ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern on Monday evening, November 17th at 8 P.M. You will hear reports of committees and officers and will be asked to participate in the discussion of several significant projects. The three-year terms of Messrs. Dickson, Palmer, Travis, and Willis as directors are expiring. Phone your suggestions to Erlund Field, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at 237-9899 prior to the meeting, and come prepared to participate in a meaningful evening.

"Weston's Fifty Oldest Houses" — November 22nd

By popular request, our fellow member, William R. Dewey, Jr., has agreed to show again at the Josiah Smith Tavern his collection of colored slides of Weston's oldest houses taken by him through the years. Those of us who saw them six years ago when they were one of the highlights of our 250th Anniversary Celebration are eager to see them again. Literally thousands of new residents have come to Weston since then, and there's nothing that will give them the feel of Weston as dramatically as these attractive scenes of interior and exterior old Weston homes.

The date is Saturday afternoon, November 22nd, and two showings are planned in order to accommodate the greatest number. The first run will start at 2 P.M. and the second at 3:30. Mr. Dewey has agreed to narrate the pictures as he shows them, and as seating is limited, you are urged to come early. Invite that new neighbor of yours to come and enjoy an afternoon in Old Weston.

Before and after, you are invited to visit the Society's rooms downstairs in the Josiah Smith Tavern ("The Jones House") where our Curator, Mrs. James E. Fraser, with Mrs. A. Bruce Downes of our Exhibits Committee will show you and your guests around. Our headquarters in the restored Isaac Fiske Law Office at 626 Boston Post Road will likewise be open for visitation. Come and see the miracles that have been wrought by those thirty-two volunteers who call themselves "The Midnight Sons." We know you'll like what you see and we hope it will suggest some finishing touches that you may be able to give to this historical gem.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

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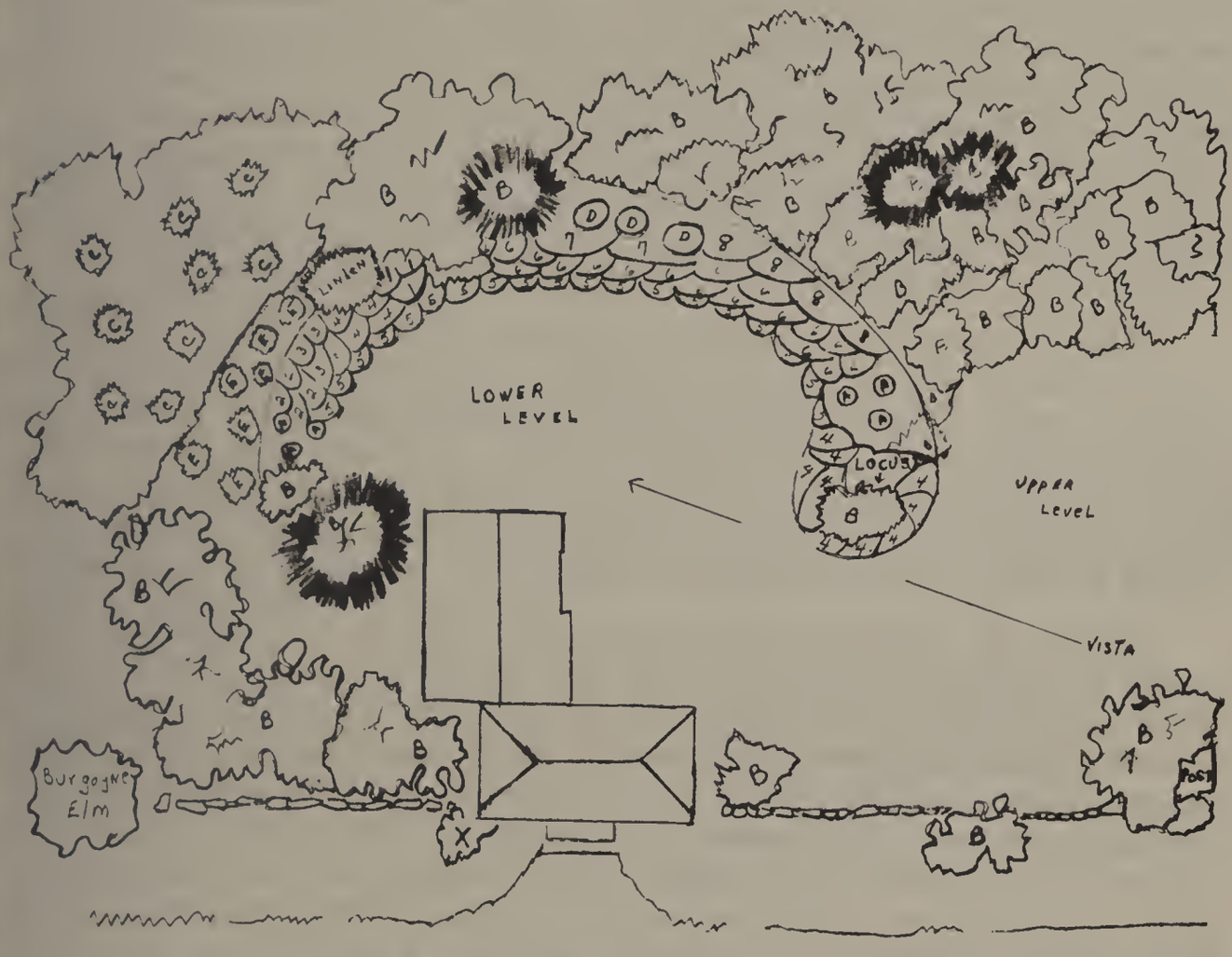
The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

OCTOBER 1969

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

JANUARY 1970, VOL. VI, NO. 2



PRIZE-WINNING LAW OFFICE BULB GARDEN
See Story on Page 2

America's Oldest Inn
February 15th — A Real Treat

In the ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern (The Jones House) on Sunday afternoon, February 15th at three o'clock in the afternoon, our guest speaker will be Mr. Francis J. Koppeis, Innkeeper of Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Massachusetts. He will entertain us and our guests with his well-known lecture BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF AMERICA'S OLDEST INN. He will carry us into the present from the very earliest times, delightfully describe features of the building itself, its ownership, the people who frequented it, and include many of the anecdotes surrounding its long, historical life. Mr. Koppeis is full of enthusiasm for his subject and we hope to see a large turnout of members and their guests.

This event has deliberately been planned for the afternoon in deference to older members who may be prone to shy away from an evening adventure in the dead of winter. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program, and the Society's Museum downstairs will be open for browsing. Let's have a pleasant afternoon with our friends at the Tavern.

A Living Memorial To Weston's Civic Spirit

During the three years of restoring and refinishing the quaint little Isaac Fiske early nineteenth century law office for the headquarters of our Society, our workers would look out the windows and exclaim: "How attractive a small Colonial bulb garden would look out there: how lovely to have a touch of color and design to enhance what nature has created here!" The idea met with enthusiastic response from all three of the garden clubs of Weston and working together, they formed a Civic Beautification Project. At a joint meeting on November 7, 1968, Mesdames Benedict, Bergstedt, Berry, Downing, Matz, Munson, Schwartz, Jr., and Travis discussed and approved a design submitted by Mrs. Allard Valentine incorporating their ideas of "a simple bulb garden of nostalgic charm" in the rear of the grounds at 626 Boston Post Road.

The finished plan was presented as an entry in the Bay State Civic Beautification Contest and to everyone's delight, received the Sears, Roebuck and Company Award of two hundred dollars. To head the unified project Mrs. Gordon Benedict of Country Garden Club, Mrs. J. Edwin Matz of the Community League's Garden Interest Group, and Mrs. Everett Schwartz Jr. of Weston Garden Club were chosen. They selected one of our directors, Mr. Charles P. Gorely, Jr., prominent local landscape architect, to be their advisor.

During the summer of 1969, ground was prepared and additional loam secured and spread. On October 20th, nine hemlocks were planted southeast of the Law Office to screen the concrete wall of the filling station nearby and to serve as the garden's scenic background. Then came seven Latifolia Kalmia Mountain Laurel and six swamp azaleas of the Downey pinxterbloom variety, the latter characterized by fragrant pink flowers that bloom late in May, — the hardiest of all azaleas. To the right of the tall spruce tree were planted three hybrid lilacs to prevent erosion and add color. Two of these were double whites of the Madame Lamoine variety and the third was a single Congo wine. The climax of the planting project came amidst copious rains on November 10, 1969 when, appropriately clad and with undaunted spirit, the bulb brigade of Mesdames Schwartz, Benedict, Berry, Fackler, Gallagher, and Studley arrived to plant 225 daffodils (50 each of Scarlet Elegant, Aronjuez, and Unsurpassable Cheerfulness), and 200 Muscari grape hyacynths. In addition to the Sears money, generous donations by all three of the clubs defrayed the cost of the bulbs, and at our annual meeting on November 17th, Mrs. Schwartz read the following quotation which she said characterized each of her avid associates: "She must look like a girl, — think like a man, — act like a lady, and work like a dog." She concluded by saying "I'm sure you agree that this will be the longest winter ever as you share our eagerness for spring and the beauty this garden will bring forth."

To all three garden clubs of beautiful Weston, the Weston Historical Society expresses its deep gratitude for such a significant achievement. This quaint and simple garden will, with faithful care, always remind us that Weston cherishes its past and the natural charm of its countryside.

Charter Anniversary Dinner April Sixteenth

Mark the date in your "Must" calendar now. Thursday evening, April 16th in the Dining Hall of the New Junior High School, which many of you will perhaps be seeing for the first time, will mark the seventh Charter Anniversary Dinner of the Weston Historical Society. Always attended by hundreds of our active and enthusiastic members, it is the highlight of the year's program and indeed of Weston's community life. We are fortunate to have as our honored guest, Mr. David B. Little, Director of the world renowned Essex Institute in Salem. He will speak to us on "AMERICA'S FIRST CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD." Fuller details will be forthcoming in our next Bulletin, but meanwhile be sure to save this important date, and help us maintain the high caliber of this always happy and successful event.

We Welcome New Members

Since the last Bulletin, Mrs. A. L. Gates, Dr. and Mrs. David D. Donaldson, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Earle, Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Hannah, Mrs. Frank Holmes, and Mr. and Mrs. David G. Williams have been enrolled as active members.

Encompassing all phases of Weston's past, present, and future, The Weston Historical Society deserves the full support of all residents. A growing membership is healthy and in talking with your friends and neighbors, don't hesitate to invite them cordially to join us in our worthwhile projects. Dues at $3 per year for single persons, and $5 per family, have purposely been kept nominal in order to encourage townwide participation. The membership committee, headed by Mrs. Joseph Stubbs, will gladly assist you.

Travel and Transportation Through Weston

Presented at the Weston Historical Society Charter Anniversary Dinner April 15, 1969 by Brenton H. Dickson.

PART III (Conclusion)

From early railroads to the present.

In New England railroading, Weston nearly scored another first, for the Boston and Worcester Railroad passed within its borders. The first passenger train on this line began operating between Boston and Newton in May 1834 but by August, when trains were running through Weston to Wellesley, the Boston and Providence had already initiated service as far as Dedham. The Fitchburg Railroad through Kendal Green was completed eleven years later and now the only stage coach through town met the train at Stony Brook to take passengers and mail to Weston, Wayland, Sudbury and Marlborough.

Railroads were sharply criticized in their early stages. "You get upset in a coach and there you are," one veteran of the road remarked. "You get upset in a rail car and, damme, where are you?" An early objector to the Boston and Worcester extending to Albany remarked ". . . . the project of a railroad from Boston to Albany, a project which everyone knows who knows the simplest rules of arithmetic, to be impracticable and as useless as a railroad from Boston to the moon." A coach driver declared that his coach

was big enough to carry all who could afford to travel — another maintained that a locomotive couldn't go against a strong wind and a farmer was sure that the noise would prevent his hens from laying.

But progress pays no heed to narrowminded Jonahs. The railroads were built and suffered growing pains of considerable magnitude. For example, "at Natick, ran out of wood; went to Needham and took wood; backed to the ledge and took water. Passengers sent on by horses. About 2½ miles from Framingham, hose froze, and at Framingham the hose and pipes were thawed out. About ¼ mile beyond Framingham, tubes burst in the boiler, and engine was hauled back to Framingham by horses."

By the time the Fitchburg Railroad came through Weston in 1844 railroading was no longer in its infancy and the management, benefiting from the experiences and mistakes of the pioneers, found progress comparatively trouble free. This line skirted Walden Pond where Henry Thoreau lived in a cabin. He made observations on the railroad as well as on nature and as his vivid descriptions could apply to any part of the line, a few passages might be quoted here. "The Fitchburg Railroad," he wrote, "touches the pond about a hundred yards south of where I dwell . . . . The whistle of the locomotive penetrates my woods summer and winter, sounding like the scream of a hawk . . . When I meet the engine with its train of cars . . . with its steam cloud like a banner streaming behind in golden and silver wreaths . . . when I hear the iron horse make the hills echo with his snort like thunder, shaking the earth with his feet, and breathing fire and smoke from his nostrils . . . it seems as if the earth had got a race now worthy to inhabit it.

"What recommends commerce to me is its enterprise and bravery, It does not clasp its hands and pray to Jupiter . . . I am refreshed and expanded when the freight train rattles past me and I smell the stores which go dispensing their odors all the way from Long Wharf to Lake Champlain . . . Here comes the cattle train bearing the cattle of a thousand hills . . . the air is filled with the bleating of calves and sheep . . . as if a pastoral valley were going by . . . A carload of drovers too . . . their vocation gone but still clinging to their useless sticks as their badge of office. But the dogs, where are they? Methinks I hear them barking behind the Peterboro hills, or panting up the western slope of the Green Mountains . . . their vocation too is gone . . . they will slink back to their kennels in disgrace, or perchance run wild and strike a league with the wolf or the fox. So is your pastoral life whirled past and away . . . Now that the cars are gone by and all the restless world with them, and the fishes in the pond no longer feel the rumbling, I am more alone than ever."

Construction began on the Massachusetts Central Railroad in 1872 but the line was beset with so many financial difficulties that it wasn't completed until 14 years later. Service on this line reached its height in the early years of the 20th century with trains through Weston nearly every hour and two long distance trains with Pullman cars, one to Washington, D.C. and another to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. And during these years Weston's transportation picture was brightened by a unique personality — Patrick J. McAuliffe, who ran a livery stable just up the rise from Weston station. Everyone in town knew him, liked him, respected him and depended on him; in short he was Weston's most unforgettable character. He loved to tell stories on himself, like the time he was driving a lady through Weston Center to look at a house she was considering renting for the summer. She pointed at the stone church and asked what denomination it was. "Unitarian," said Pat. "Are you a Unitarian?" — "No," said his passenger, "I'm an Episcopalian." — "Then," said Pat, "you might just as well rent a house for the summer in Hell as here."

Besides running the livery stable he was also Weston's police chief and as such was sometimes called on to 'fix' the traffic violations of Weston citizens. Once a Westonian was stopped for speeding in Newton and Pat said he'd take care of it for her. A week or so later he called back in great distress. "I can't do anything," he said. "They've got a new police chief in Newton and he won't cooperate. For the last two days I've had men out all over town trying to pick up someone from Newton but they haven't found one yet."

Commuting to Boston by train became so convenient that Weston turned into a residential community, beginning soon after the Civil War and continuing on to the present day. The history of commuting and commuters is a subject in itself and not within

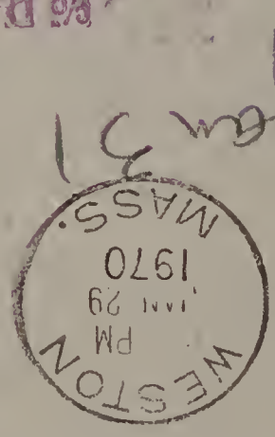
the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that improvements in public transportation were responsible. Automobiling at first was a strictly seasonal proposition. A trip of any distance had to be carefully planned as tires were short-lived and gasoline dispensaries few and far between. But this situation was soon corrected and for many years Weston was on the main automobile route between Boston and New York and remained so until the old Worcester Turnpike was rebuilt in the late twenties and rechristened Route 9. This diverted much of the through traffic away from tortuous Route 20 and was a welcome, though temporary, relief to the residents on the Post Road. North Avenue became the eastern section of the Mohawk Trail and was a busy thoroughfare until Route 2, more or less using the course of the old Cambridge-Concord Turnpike, was constructed.

In the late teens a new type of public transportation came to Weston — the *Jitney Bus* that went from Waltham to Wayland and charged a 5¢ fare. It caught on after a few weeks and later the line was extended to Maynard and continued operating until about the start of World War II. A second line ran from Waltham to Lincoln along North Avenue. A resident of North Avenue tells me that she used to take this bus to the movies in Waltham and that her father would give her a quarter to cover expenses — 10¢ for the round trip, 10¢ for the movies and a nickle for an ice cream cone! The Worcester bus is an offshoot of the Boston and Worcester Street Railway, an interurban line that followed the Worcester Turnpike from Brookline Village to Worcester and was torn up when Route 9 was constructed.

Development of airlines marked the next change in the transportation picture and though Weston never boasted a commercial airport there has been plenty of traffic passing over the town. And so each decade has seen new improvments in transportation — improvements undreamed of by earlier generations. Less than 200 years ago it took a week to get to New York; it is now possible to get to the moon and back in less time than that with a few orbits of our planet and satellite thrown in for good measure. Today we are faced with a new phase in transportation — the supersonic jet. Just as it was hard getting accustomed to the noise of a slower plane passing overhead, so will it be difficult to get used to these new creatures and adjust ourselves to a point where we can take the sonic boom for granted. And remember, the boom is not localized to the place where the sound barrier is first broken but, like the bowwave of a boat, follows along with the plane so long as it exceeds the speed of sound — frightening the timid, breaking windows, and causing no end of annoyance along its route.

Today we get around in a way our forefathers would never have thought possible; the transportation of tomorrow can only be hypothetical; and by the time tomorrow becomes yesterday — well — your guess is as good as mine.

Note: The next issue of The Bulletin will describe The Isaac Fiske Law Office Restoration as told by those who participated in this historic venture.



The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
JANUARY 1970

MR. & MRS. EDWARD W. MARSHALL
10 CRESCENT ST.
WESTON, MASS.

Mrs. R. R. TARRELL
NEW CASTLE, N. H. 03854

8

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

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and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 25c. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner, 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

March 1970, Vol. VI, No. 3

Hour after hour of scraping!

Traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner Thursday Evening, April Sixteenth at New Junior High School

This is your only notice

The outstanding event of the Society's program is always its charter anniversary dinner. It will be held on Thursday evening, April 16th, 6:45 p.m. in the dining hall of the new Junior High School. Now is the time to sign up your friends and neighbors. Also we urge you to bring your grown children. History is never ending and as each old timer passes, one by one, our younger citizens will pick up the baton.

Send checks at $4 per person to Weston Historical Society, Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193 at once to help the committee plan. The deadline is April 9th. This is your *only* notice, so act *now*.

Following the dinner and with no delay, we shall move to the new auditorium across the hall where Mr. David B. Little, noted director of Essex Institute, Salem, will address us on an even more famous anniversary: "AMERICA'S FIRST CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION." Our speaker will be introduced by our fellow member, Stephen J. Riley, who has known him as a contemporary for many years.

In Memoriam

Nov. 21, 1969, Raymond Brewer Bidwell, Charter Member and Donor.

Dec. 27, 1969, Mrs. David M. Kellogg, Sr., Charter Member.

Feb. 8, 1970, Elizabeth Snow Sweet, Director and Charter Life Member.

Feb. 15, 1970, Helen Patterson Wheeler, Charter Member, co-author with Henry W. Patterson of "Around The Cracker Barrel": willing helper on the Isaac Fiske Law Office Restoration.

Feb. 22, 1970, Adelaide Philbrick Sumner, Charter Member and generous donor of many precious photographs and records.

Mar. 7, 1970, Parker Harrison, Charter Member.

At its meeting on Sunday afternoon, February 15th, the Society adopted the following resolution by rising vote and a moment of silence:

Elizabeth Snow Sweet: 1883-1970

"One of Weston's greatest ladies, Elizabeth Snow Sweet, died at the age of eighty-six last Sunday in the home she loved. Her genuine concern for people old and young, and her enthusiasm for beauty in every form, will be cherished and revered by all of us who were privileged to know her.

"She reflected a charm that can neither be surpassed nor forgotten. Her enthusiasm for the Town of Weston, — the countless and extensive ways in which she generously contributed to its natural beauty, its friendliness, and its traditions brought her to the highest point of leadership in the hearts and minds of her fellow townsmen.

"We of the Weston Historical Society, herein assembled on this fifteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy, are particularly grateful to this great lady, — a charter life member and director since its inception. The beauty and the fervor and the radiance of her spirit have been an inspiration to us. Her memory will be with us always."

New Members

Since our last Bulletin, we have been pleased to welcome into our membership Mrs. William Albert Gallup, Sr. of 751 Boston Post Road, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Norton and Family, 802 Boston Post Road, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Roche of 15 Bay State Road, and Mr. and Mrs. Allard N. Valentine, 396 Glen Road.

Isaac Fiske's Law Office: A Significant Restoration

At the very outset of the nineteenth century, the Isaac Fiske Law Office was built for Mr. Artemus Ward, noted citizen of Weston, a few feet east of Central Cemetery and a few feet west of the historic Burgoyne Elm as pictured in our May 1967 issue and on the front cover of the 1967 Weston Town Report. A number of similar small law offices were erected in Massachusetts at about the same time, but very few remain. Of simple design, this one had a small entrance hall opposite a large central chimney with a single room and fireplacc on each side.

Artemus Ward shared his office briefly with Alpheus Bigelow until the latter built a prototype of his own at the Wayland line on the same Boston Post Road. It is now owned and preserved by our fellow members, Miss Joan Simpson and her family. Mr. Ward then took as his partner Mr. Isaac Fiske, fresh from Law School, and when the former left Weston, Fiske became sole proprietor. In the next century and a quarter, it remained in the Fiske family. On June 8, 1928, Mr. Charles H. Fiske, one of Isaac's descendants, sold it to the Town of Weston with a buy-back provision in case no appropriate use by the Town could be found.

Early in the present century, Isaac Fiske's barn had been moved across the street to a point some two hundred feet east of the Law Office where it still houses an upholstery shop and other commercial services. In the same move, the barn's ancient shed became an addition to the law office, doubling the size of the original building. As the ground fell away sharply, it provided an extra room upstairs and down, each with the same southern exposure enjoyed by the rest of the structure.

Being adjacent to the burial ground where Mr. Fiske and his two wives are interred, it served as an office for the Town's Cemetery Department and as a repository for many historical records and relics under the devoted supervision of Miss Gertrude Fiske and Miss Emma Ripley, both members of the Weston Historical Committee for many years. When the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities acquired the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Historical Committee moved its treasures there. Almost simultaneously a temporary housing shortage for veterans returning from World War II was partially relieved by the conversion of the Law Office into living quarters. Plumbing was simple and adequate, but insulation was conspicuous by its absence, and tenants had quite a job keeping warm and healthy.

When in 1965 the last tenant, a widower, died and there was no further call for it by Town veterans or employees, The Weston Historical Society offered to restore and maintain it as its headquarters. On April 27, 1966 a lease was signed at the home of the late Mrs. Homer N. Sweet by Herman Koester, Jr., Chairman of the Selectmen, and Harold G. Travis, President of the Society. Subsequently Mr. F. Leslie Ford was appointed Chairman of Restoration with Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Travis in charge of furnishing it in the character of an early nineteenth century law office.

Where it's a good idea for people to keep their feet on the ground, as the saying goes, this precept doesn't apply to buildings. While the exterior of the Law Office had been kept neatly painted in its original white color and new shingles had made the roof rain-proof, the structure itself, as was true of so many buildings erected in olden times, rested merely on stones that were only "skin deep." Thus, like the rise and ebb of the tide, our little gem annually heaved up and down with the frost. Mr. Ford's early examination filled us all with consternation, for in his report he said:

> "The east wall at the front is in very bad shape. Pulling up a board at the first floor level, I discovered a bad case of dry rot in the sill. Also there was serious deterioration in the west wall where the stone wall had been placed directly against the wood siding. With such threatening signs of fundamental seriousness, I have advised that absolutely no work be done until new sills are installed and any other structural repairs that may be exposed as a result are made to make a solid and sound building."

Faced with this situation, the Selectmen promptly arranged with one of our charter members, Mr. Henry F. Wile, to put the building into primary sound condition. It was

fortunate for us and the future that he was available to guide and direct this vital first step in reenforcement, reconstruction, and restoration.

First of all, a four foot trench to guard against frost had to be dug under the entire front perimeter and parts of each side for the installation of a solid cinderblock wall on which the sills were to rest. Most of the clapboards on the front and sides had to be replaced. The old front door has been temporarily stored elsewhere in the hope that some day, despite its deterioration, it too can be restored. Meanwhile a new custom made door, replete with 1805 hinges and the original inside latch, makes a most suitable replacement. The wobbly old wooden steps, thoroughly rotten and actually unsafe, gave way to traditional granite, and flagstones were laid to the street. The lawn was re-sloped and re-seeded and as operations proceeded, we were kept constantly mindful of the factors that relate to authenticity. For example, our landscape advisor kept admonishing the workmen: — "Don't disturb those lilacs: — they're appropriate: — they belong: — they stay." Slowly, steadily, and surely we were learning how big are little things.

Such visible signs of activity at 626 Boston Post Road in Weston created much interest and whetted the appetites of those particularly who wanted to lend a hand to the fascinating undertaking. "Let me know when you're ready for me to go to work" meant a whole lot to those of us who had committed the Society to a project whose scope and size we would not know until we actually got into it. Meanwhile noting that the three century old Burgoyne Elm disclosed symptoms of the dread Dutch Elm disease, we planted two healthy scions of the parent tree alongside of it as a gesture toward its immortality.

It was not until September 1, 1966 that many of us had been inside for more than just a peek. As had our fellow townsmen, we often had admired the quaint compactness of this landmark as we drove along. What a shock we had when we finally started on the long and frustrating road of recovery and restoration!

An empty house, no matter how old, seldom looks attractive, and this indeed was no exception, for what greeted our eyes was pretty grim. Wide gaps of open air could be seen at the baseboards and around the windows. Layers of tin foil that had been tacked on doors and walls gave silent testimony to the struggle to keep warm that had been waged by the occupant. Ugly, well worn linoleum stuck to the floors. The fireplace in the waiting room had been closed with a strip of Masonite. A huge gas heater took up most, it seemed, of the room. When he saw the exposed wires running about the room and into the wall, the Town inspector ripped them out without a second's hesitation.

Ceilings were yellowed and sagging. Window sashes and sills, all painted and repainted in gloomy brown were damp and rotted. The door leading into Isaac's office was partly unhinged. The old wall paper was badly stained. "Before looking at the ell," we said, "we'll see what we can do with these two rooms. They are the original building." Shuddering bravely, we set out to see what a few hours of scraping and sanding could do. At best we hoped to get down far enough to establish a surface smooth enough to apply light tones of paint to brighten up the place. A peek under the linoleum which we decided to retain for the floor's temporary protection, revealed many signs of ants at work through past years. In our cramped quarters we got in each other's way so much that finally we fell into the habit of removing a window frame or inside door and taking it home for work down cellar or in the garage. With each room only ten by eleven feet in floor space, can't you imagine the congestion and confusion? Happily it was accomplished by congenialty and above the din, shouts of "Who took the sandpaper or where's my paint remover?" would rend the air.

Our resolve to leave the rest of the house to the future didn't last long, because the number of volunteers frequently exceeded the capacity of the two main rooms. When such an excess labor supply developed, the extras were pushed into what we called "Step No. 2."

Our next issue will carry a scrape by scrape description of what we found downstairs and what we did about it.

Reminder:

If you are one of those who have not yet paid your annual dues, will you please take care of the matter promptly? The annual statement was mailed to you in October. If you have mislaid it, call Mr. Roy L. Dickson at 899-2450 and he will tell you the amount you owe. Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193. Payment for the Charter Anniversary Dinner, for annual dues, and for any additional voluntary contributions for the Law Office Restoration, may all be included in one check, indicating in a separate note, the amount for each. Dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

With many of the old guard passing, it is steadily necessary to swell our ranks with new members, so your cooperation will help us keep the Society strong. If you have a new member, phone Mrs. Joseph Stubbs at 899-4245, Membership Chairman, or have check sent to Box 343, Weston. Annual rates are as you know, $3 single and $5 family.

"Old-Time New England"

We would like to complete the Society's file of copies of "Old-Time New England," the bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

If you can help us by supplying old copies of this interesting bulletin, please call Mrs. James E. Fraser at 894-2872.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

MARCH 1970

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1970, Vol. VI No. 4

ISAAC FISKE'S MONUMENT

Stands in Central Cemetery just 200 feet west of his restored law office which is shown in right background. Shown in picture are, left to right, F. Leslie Ford, Chairman of Restoration, Harold G. Travis, President, and Roy L. Dickson, Treasurer.

Isaac Fiske's Law Office: A Significant Restoration

Continued from our March issue

Downstairs were problems identical to those already described, and in addition we found other problems occasioned by the improvisations employed in the 1920 adaptation of the old barn shed into a downstairs living room, kitchen, and bathroom, so-called. Here an even larger gas heater dominated the available space and there was about an 18-inch clearance between the bathtub and sloping ceiling! Component parts of the wing were of different vintage. Heavy shingles or "Shakes" on the east side obviously antedated the building to which it was attached. The newel post at the foot of the stairs showed with scenic wormholes that it was really old.

One day Mr. Ford exclaimed, "Come over here and feel this." With persistent skill, he had reached the original wood and it was so smooth and beautiful that even though we knew it meant hundred of additional hours and ergs we excitedly agreed that we'd go all the way and wax the original woodwork.

By the spring of 1969 we had blended Steps 1 and 2. Restoration was 90% done and presentable enough for public inspection and limited use. Everything wasn't in apple-pie order, but we felt we would let people see what had been accomplished, what more

had to be done, and what fixtures and furnishings still were desired. We could hardly believe after more than three thousand man hours of labor in two years that such a miraculous transformation had been made, bringing back into being another historic gem for Weston always to prize.

The long list of workers who gave their strength, talents, and time includes: Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Albrecht, Mrs. F. William Aseltine Jr., Messrs. Charles G. Ball, Edward Briggs, Alan M. Campbell, George L. Downs, Dudley B. Dumaine, Edward Edmunds, Mesdames Dwight Foster, Edward H. Hall, Lyman Stone Hayes, David M. Kellogg, Jr., Robert Murkland, and Robert McLeod. Also Messrs. George J. Pink and George K. Sauerwein, Miss Joan Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Leander Rafuse, Mr. Ed Willems, and the late Mrs. Allan T. Wheeler who, a few days before her death last February wrote: "I did get completely exhausted after 'Around The Cracker Barrel' but I was happy to make the curtains for the little Law Office." A few other comments should be noted to portray the same exultant spirit of all of the volunteer workers: —

"I was merely a window washer but each time that I was assigned to what ordinarily is a monstrous chore, I felt honored with a sacred trust. It was really exciting to touch those old, old irreplaceable panes. Their wave-like irregularities made them more interesting than modern glass. It was a fun enterprise rather than toil. In many respects I'm sorry it's over, but in every respect, I'm proud." — Carol Goodale Hayes.

"Everyone else did more than I. Besides, I'm ashamed to confess that in my zeal, I broke a window pane. After that I was set to washing the stove and sink; both unbreakable!" — Barbara Hall.

"When I arrived I was still recovering from broken and fractured vertebrae. Mary Aseltine and I started together, scraping paint, pulling off wallpaper wherever it was. Betty Travis and Marion Ford were busy with paint remover, scraping window casings and sills. The men were working in the waiting room. Ed Fraser let us use his tank vacuum cleaner. The fireplace was being cleaned and various doors and panels removed for bench work at home. Other days I scraped, and mixed patching plaster, filling many holes in both rooms. This was a dedicated group of people determined to finish their job. With the outside painted, the building looked just beautiful: such a wonderful achievement for the Town." Ruth Murkland.

"Restoration of the old Fiske Law Office was worthwhile. I was glad to participate in it. My assignment was to replace broken window panes and renew the putty on all windows. We had fun." — George Saurwein.

"Without your inspiration, Weston Historical Society might not now have a hearth of its own. The dark woodwork in the two front rooms was a discouraging sight and I was dismayed with the noxious fumes which came from the varnish remover the Fords were using when I came to work. Though I scraped, sanded, and cleaned a few of the windows, it was the overwhelming amount of work done by others which created the warmth of our Society's home. I'm sure all Weston is pleased and proud of your achievement." — Hope Albrecht.

Her husband, Dick, adds: "I fall into the classification of *also helped*. Whenever I appeared you others were already at it and you were still working when I left. During the fall of '67, George Pink and I did manage some outside painting." . . . .

"What appeared to be a hopeless, gargantuan task turned out to be a miracle in authentic restoration due to the dedicated labors of love by the participants who cared enough to work diligently and prudently. I gave the fewest hours and was not on hand at the beginning but I recall the lovely grain of wood showing through after scraping, the yanking of wallpaper, and the scrubbing and scouring of those stairs. When all is said and done, we will all remember the broken finger nails, the weary muscles, and differences of opinion, and all with a smile." — Helen McLeod.

"My work at the Law Office started in March, 1968. In the beginning I spent most of my time removing paint on window frames and sashes. Innumerable other things are noted in my diary. By the time I joined the crew the building had been put in good structural condition and we first concentrated on the two original rooms in front, particularly the east room." — Joan Simpson.

Then too, there was Eddie Edmonds. When his talents as a mason and all-round house problem solver were recalled, this World War I veteran proved to be the answer to many anguished prayers. We stood in the rundown landmark wondering what could possibly be done with that chimney and those yellowed drooping ceilings. We had been told that we'd have to rebuild the old chimney from the ground up and install a new ceiling. After one look, Eddie told us confidently what could be done. It sounded sensible

but we dreaded the cost. Sensing this he said, "Do I understand you and the others aren't charging anything for all the time you're spending here?" and being answered in the affirmative, added, "Well, I can't believe my time is worth any more than yours, so I'll be glad to do it for the people of Weston too."

With his assurance that the chimney would draw as well as it did in Isaac Fiske's day, we removed the big heater. Loose bricks were re-formed and re-set in both fireplaces. Soon a cheerful fire made us happy while we worked. While Ed carefully shored up the ceiling with so-called buttons, others of us set up window sashes for scraping and sanding while still others removed layer after layer of paint from doorsills and frames. Happy voices rang out above roar and racket. Workers of all degrees of skill could be placed into two categories. (1) those who worked while they talked and (2) those who couldn't, simultaneously!

The frosting on the cake was Roy L. Dickson who had just succeeded Harry Jones as Treasurer of the Society. One March morning in 1968 he encountered our President downtown and quietly inquired if we were still looking for volunteers. At that point we were beginning to sag worse than the ceilings Eddie Edmunds had bolstered. Let Roy give you his version in his own too modest words:

"Much preliminary work had been completed, the stripping of wallpaper, paint, etc. which was so necessary before we could proceed with the work under Chairman Ford's direction. The following are some of the remembrances of Vi and myself, for she faithfully jotted down the time I spent and some of the things I did.

"From March 30th through April we met in groups of 2, 3, and sometimes several, to sand woodwork, fill holes in plaster, paint, etc. from 9:30 through noon. From May 1st to 18th the work intensified as we got ready for open house on the 25th. The old linoleum floor covering was ripped up, floors sanded, walls painted, ceiling whitened, sometimes needing many more than two coats.

"Much debris was carted to the dump where we rescued enough Broadloom carpet to cover that cold downstairs floor: looks rather decent, — not perfect, — but will do. Now we had come to the final stages, — more painting, hanging doors, finishing windows. Alan Campbell who had done such a great job in renewing the oak door upstairs, brought back the old kitchen door after working at it at home for more than a hundred hours: a fine job of restoring.

"On November 1st we were again at work. The attic of the Jones House yielded the badly needed Franklin Stove for downstairs, and on the 16th, Les Ford and I got the pipe set up. Soon a brisk fire started but almost immediately we noticed that the clay tile flue which worked so well for gas, was starting to crack. Out went the fire and we asked the Fire Chief what he thought we should do. He suggested a new chimney from top to bottom.

"When on January 11, 1969 Mrs. Sweet donated the money for six new storm windows of the right style to protect the Law Office, Les, Red, and I each took two and gave them two coats of paint, ready for installation. Les drew plans for the new chimney and Red and I went to Waltham to inspect some granite blocks from an old building being razed, hoping they'd be adaptable for retaining walls and possibly the future garden. The cost of handling such heavy slabs proved too much. While the Fords basqued in Florida during February, we took his plans and found where the prefabricated chimney could be made. On March 20th, Eddie Edmunds agreed to install a base for the new chimney and we garnered some appropriately old bricks. On March 22nd while several of us were working like beavers, Charles Gorely came to hang the old clock he and his wife had donated. He had quite a job but did it right and it looks great. March 25th, Herb Nelson and his men finished installing the new chimney for us without charge, — a tremendous gift of time and skill. March 29th, Vi and I spent the whole day painting inside.

"Much work was done from April 5th to 18th getting ready for our Bay State visitors on the 19th. We painted the new chimney with two coats. Les brought the hinges for the doors and we hung them. The beautiful antique reproduction light fixtures which Mr. Herbert W. Hastings of Brook Road and the Georgian Brass Company of Newbury Street, Boston had donated for every room in the house were installed by one of our many anonymous allies. Vi finished second coats on doors, hinges, and andirons, — also the beams in the downstairs room. Joan Simpson, Marion Ford, and Betty Travis were all there working with us in various rooms. On the 15th I helped Betty lay her beautiful hand-hooked stair runner and there are many compliments on this work of art. She and Helen Wheeler finished the curtains and hung them on every window.

"April 19th was miserable and rainy, but large crowds of Bay State League visitors were much impressed. Memorial Day was celebrated on May 25th. On June 12th we had an outdoor picnic of all the workers. We voted to make it an annual affair . We recently purchased a timer for the Christmas lights. They look very pretty especially with snow on the ground and Betty's wreath on the door."

We have saved Leslie Ford's recollections for our dessert. His seasoned judgment and sense of humor shine through it all. His guidance in detail and over-all concept brought us triumphantly from darkness to dawn.

"Among thousands of memories are dropping a marble on the floors to check for uneveness — measuring to determine the amount of sagging in the ceilings — taking building measurements and drawing plans to show the two floors as they existed, with elevations of principal rooms. Such plans were the groundwork on which the course of future development depended, and I spent 60 hours on them. I remember that big gas heater with thermostatic control that was connected to a poorly installed electric plug by a cord with *no* insulation over the wires in several places. Fearing a jolly fire some cold, dark night I took the cord away. We removed old aluminum foil that had been installed over doors and around the rooms to conserve heat. And of course I remember scraping door frames and doors, taking apart the window casings, scraping and cleaning them and the muntins of all windows. What a job! Then the sanding and staining of all the wood, removing the picture molding that had been nailed around the perimeter of the rooms at the base to conceal the wide cracks and stop the passage of cold air.

"I remember: visiting four Boston hardware supply places for hinges, knobs, pulls, etc. of a design suitable for a building of this period, — making signs to place around the building to show the amount of work to be done by badly needed workers and helpers, — making plans for possible development of closets, and treatment of two fireplace walls. I must have spent forty hours on this alone.

"Yes I remember — rebuilding the office closet, adding a shelf, fixing the upper part for books and making doors for the lower door out of the old doors, — recutting the old doors in the waiting room, rehanging them and the doors to the entry closet. Parts of the old broken hardware were removed and new installed. All woodwork was scraped, sanded, and stained, taking well over 60 hours. I recall checking the old storm sash: few were of proper size and as the windows were not of standard size, we could use only custom made sash. Several windows had broken sash, so new panes of glass had to be installed. I also made a bar gate, staining and installing it at the head of the stairs to prevent anyone from falling due to the narrow passage and the winding stairs. It took about twenty hours to build this with no metal hinge.

"On and on my memories go: — making a sign to identify the building to people passing by, thus placing the Society's name before the public. At this time I was engaged in remodeling and adding to an old church that had been erected about the time of our building. I was able to acquire an old rough board, sand it somewhat so as to keep the feeling of age, paint it, and letter the sign in a style used in the 1800's. It took me two weeks. As the old chimney was wide open at the top and there was no regular heat from the fireplaces to create an up draft, the snow entered in quantities apparently to spend the winter. I designed a new chimney top to prevent the unwelcome intrusion and the work was ably and gratuitously done by Harold Breen of North Avenue, son-in-law of Eddie Edmunds.

"I remember working so well day after day with Roy Dickson and getting so much done together. We made many trips to get new parts for the Franklin Stove — flue sections, bends, and new smoke box. When we started a fire the old tile flue disintegrated, causing a real threat. I made the architectural details for the new chimney, its base and its extension through the second floor and onto the roof. We decided on the Van Packer chimney and Fire Chief Johnson approved it. It was ordered, Roy and Red delivered it from Roxbury, and Herb Nelson erected it at no charge. I also remember working on those ceilings. Having had good success with a heavy bodied sand paint I recommended its use. Mr. Willis graciously furnished this and all other paint for our entire project, and Red Travis, being some taller than I (therefore higher minded), did a fine painting job. I think he now has all the paint drippings out of his hair! Yes, there are countless memories, but I'll stop with just three more: — making a study of the framing of the old shed that was made a part of the building near the beginning of this century — checking the similarity of the window design, the muntins and the window catches, — also the raison d'etre of the peculiar framing in the rear addition which supported the upper floor." — F. Leslie Ford.

The restoration of the Isaac Fiske Law Office is one of the finest examples of team effort that can be cited today. A band of Weston citizens from every walk of life performed a variety of menial tasks happily together in a common cause. While working diligently here, some were paying professionals for similar tasks at home. What was drudgery there was fun down here.

How can we measure the value of what these people did? The talent so freely given in literally thousands of hours, runs into astronomical figures, but money couldn't buy the care and concern each showed in every assignment. Truly it was a grand Weston project. Its spirit is reflected in the beautiful old-fashioned bulb garden created by the three garden clubs of Weston working in community effort as described in the January 1970 Bulletin.

What did it actually cost the Society in dollars and cents? For changing the wiring to 220 voltage, for six new storm windows, the final floor sanding, the new chimney from downstairs and a cap for the main chimney, removing the obsolete bathtub, gas stove and heater with pipes attached thereto, the new vacuum cleaner, the innumerable supplies of sandpaper, hardware, paint remover, etc., with much in the above categories donated by certain workers, the Society's treasury paid out only $1,116.56. Simultaneously it was reimbursed by cash donations of $206 and by the $97 profit from the 1968 "Around the Cracker Barrel" production so that the net cost of a $20,000 restoration was $813.11. Annual membership dues enabled us to absorb this cost without detriment to our lively programs and many services. As long as Weston people support the work of preserving our rich heritage, the sky's the limit to what we can accomplish for the good of our Town and country.

This restoration report would be incomplete without acknowledging all the priceless gifts we have received for appropriately furnishing our headquarters. Long after most of us are gone the Isaac Fiske Law Office will bear grateful testimony to generous benefactors whose gifts are noted in a book that is displayed there.

President Harold G. Travis; Treasurer Roy L. Dickson; Recording Secretary John G. Brooks; Corresponding Secretary Susan Thrall; Curator Mrs. James E. Fraser; Exhibits Mrs. A. Bruce Downes; Finance Harry B. Jones; Garden Mrs. Everett Schwartz, Jr.; Hospitality Mrs. Reginald Wells; Information Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner; Law Office Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and Mrs. Travis; Liaison Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall; Library Grant M. Palmer, Jr.; Membership Mrs. Joseph Stubbs; Program Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell; and Research Erlund Field.

DIRECTORS: J. Kenneth Bennett, John W. Boyd, John G. Brooks, Brenton H. Dickson, Erlund Field, Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Harry B. Jones, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall, and Harold G. Travis.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

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Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 25c. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner, 893-4346.

Memorial Days

The Law Office will be open for inspection on Monday, May 25 and on Saturday, May 30. Our library collection of law books, records of the General Court, and a complete set of Town Reports has been neatly assembled and catalogued. Outside in the garden, laurel, lilacs, and bulbs are in bloom. We hope many members will come to visit us with their friends.

New Members

We warmly welcome into our membership Sister M. Jeanne d'Arc O'Hare, President of Regis College, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Newman of 66 Doublet Hill Road, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Rowan, 173 Country Drive, and Selectman and Mrs. Thomas W. Underhill of 65 Aberdeen Road.

In Memoriam

With deepest regret we record since our last Bulletin, the deaths of two loyal charter members, Messrs. Parker Harrison and William O. Kenney.

TOWN OF WESTON · MASSACHUSETTS
WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Weston Historical Society
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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1970, Vol. VII, No. 1

The West House on Church Street

FALL MEETING FEATURES JOSEPH HUDAK

On Wednesday evening, October twenty-eighth, at the First Parish Church Hall, the Society welcomes as its guest speaker, Mr. Joseph Hudak, member of the firm of Olmsted Associates, nationally known landscape architects. Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, our Program Chairman, was a member of the group that accompanied him last April on the "Origins of Gardening" Tour through Italy, Spain, and Portugal. In her words she found him "an interesting and vibrant informal speaker."

The meeting will start at eight o'clock but all are urged to come early in time to enjoy a cup of coffee and brownies with him. Our hospitality committee suggests you arrive at seven-thirty. A special invitation has been extended to Weston's garden club members. Admission is free to all members of the Weston Historical Society while our guests will be asked to contribute a dollar. Come and bring your friends and family to what will surely be a most delightful evening on October twenty-eighth.

Mr. Hudak's career in practical and planned landscaping has been extensive. He graduated from Pennsylvania State College in 1951 with a degree in landscape architecture after three years of service in OPERATIONS CROSSROADS, BIKINI, U. S. Navy. Coming to Boston in 1952, he has been with his present firm continuously, being elected vice president in 1964. He has served as lecturer in the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, is a

member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the author of many articles in such notable publications as House Beautiful, Horticulture, Flower and Garden, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Flower Show Magazine.

While his lecture's title is "How Pure Do You Want To Be?", Mr. Hudak, who was host of the above mentioned "Origins of Gardening" Tour, will dwell substantially on a theme that's close to our hearts, — the philosophy of old fashioned gardens. We hope that prior to his talk, we may show him the bulb garden that was planted a year ago on the rear lawn of our own Issac Fiske Law Office by the three garden clubs of Weston and which has been so beautiful from the outset.

ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 18th

Our annual meeting of members has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, November eighteenth, at the Josiah Smith Tavern (Jones House). It will be called to order promptly at eight o'clock, and following the President's annual report, talks will be given by various activities chairmen and light refreshments served. Election of three directors whose terms are expiring, will be held after the recommendations of the nominating committee which is headed by Mrs. Kirkbride Patterson. Suggestions from the membership will be welcomed by her and her committee.

It is expected that a proposal will be made to permit the annual meeting to be held either in October or, as now, in November. All members are urged to come and participate in our discussions. Your active cooperation in helping the directors formulate the most worthwhile program for the year ahead is urgently solicited. Come with the whole family and bring your friends. We expect, as usual, to have the meeting terminate at nine o'clock and then spend an extra half hour socializing while listening to a few local personages who are known to be authorities on some of Weston's richest historical possessions. There's a story behind every book in the law office, every picture on the wall and, in fact, every possession of the Society both in the Jones House and our headquarters at 626 Boston Post Road.

A REMINDER AND A REQUEST

As one by one the oldsters disappear and their old homes are sold, we still see evidence of the tragic losses that occur in the discarding of articles and written information when the heirs break up the homestead or the new owners ruthlessly clear out what's left behind in order to make way for their own possessions.

Owners of old "things," whether still in the front parlor, upstairs in the attic, or out in the barn, are again asked to give us for the record, a list of such articles or papers, plus all that you know about them. Now, before it's too late, get them on the record so that your Society may serve a most useful purpose in helping to answer the many inquiries that steadily come to us not only from local people but from visitors and folks far away.

Resolve during the next few months to set forth what you have and what you know along the lines of Weston's historic objects or events and mail it to Weston Historical Society, Inc., Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts.

A House That Traveled

The story of the Thomas H. West House on Church Street

On the twenty-third of October, 1789, George Washington spent the night in Weston. He was on a tour through the eastern states to observe the condition of things under the new form of government and, as new President, was enthusiastically received along the way. On the morning of the twenty-fourth he left Weston for Watertown where he was met by troops sent out to escort him to Cambridge.

There are uncertainties as to where exactly he spent the night but we can be fairly sure that it was either at the Flagg Tavern on the Post Road or at the home of his friend, Col. Thomas Marshall, on Highland Street. Historians favor the former location but the latter cannot be dismissed without more information than has so far come to light. Arguments in favor of the Flagg Tavern stress the fact that he had deliberately planned to spend nights at public houses to show how democratic he was in mingling with the citizenry; those who cling to the second theory maintain that Marshall and Washington were such good friends that the plans would naturally be changed in this special instance.

Col. Marshall's house stood where the Paine house is today and was moved to its present location on Church Street by Charles H. Fiske, Esq. in 1882 and it is from research done by him that much of the material for this article has been obtained. Quoting Mr. Fiske: ". . . as to the house in which he stayed, I think that it must have been as Col. Marshall's guest . . . although the General says to the Governor (Hancock) in a letter declining the Governor's invitation to stay with him in Boston that he did not intend to accept private quarters. One of my reasons for feeling fairly sure of it is that Mrs. Knox, Col. Marshall's great niece, if I rightly remember, informed me of the fact; and also as to the particular chamber which he occupied, the southeast corner one." So, we'll let the matter rest here until further evidence comes to light, and return to the main subject.

The Marshall house, which today is owned and occupied by the Thomas H. Wests of Church Street, was probably built between 1755-1760 by Elisha Jones. An eminent architect told Mr. Fiske that the lines of the roof were as perfect for that style of architecture as he had ever seen. Elisha was a member of a prominent Weston family of Joneses. The Farmer's Precinct, one of three precincts of Watertown and later Weston, was also called "the Precinct of Lieut. (Josiah) Jones Co.," Josiah being the first of a long line of Joneses in town. It is interesting to note that his wife Lydia, who survived him by twenty-nine years, died at the age of ninety-five in 1743 and that the Scotch Magazine, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1743 states, "She lived to see her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their children, in all two hundred ninety-six, of whom two hundred thirty-three remain alive."

One of Lydia and Josiah's sons, Josiah, Jr., is said to have "built a house and settled on the western side of his father's land, about eighty rods southwest from his father's house, which, at his decease, descended to his son Elisha." There was an old Jones house at the corner of Chestnut and Highland Streets, and eighty rods southwest from its foundation is the Paine house which occupies the original site of the Elisha Jones-Thomas Marshall house. It is possible then that these are the two locations referred to above and that Elisha built his excellent new mansion on the same site. Whether the earlier house was razed to make room for it or destroyed by fire is not known.

Elisha was a rich man. He owned real estate in Weston as well as large tracts in several other parts of Massachusetts and he had two slaves — a badge of distinction in pre-revolutionary days. He was conservative in politics and held many important town offices from time to time as well as representing the town in the General Court for ten different years between 1754 and 1774. But with revolution in the offing, popularity waned for confirmed loyalists like Elisha and instead of continuing to be an influential and respected citizen he was now looked upon with scorn. For a while he kept a company of militia — of which he was colonel — around his house for fear of being attacked. His life was constantly in danger and mobs came so often to threaten him that he finally fled from home, leaving all his possessions behind, and went to Boston to be under the protection of the British troops. Elisha did not long survive these changes. He died in Boston in 1775 less than a year after his arrival, "more than likely of a broken heart at what he may have considered the cruel treatment received at the hands of his former friends whose welfare he had had so strongly at heart and also the loss of his estate."

All the property that he owned in Weston and in other towns was confiscated to be sold for the benefit of the government. His mansion on Highland Street was sold at public auction to Col. Thomas Marshall, friend of George Washington, who took possession and occupied it in 1782. Twelve years later Col. Marshall's wife died and soon afterwards he wooed and won the heart of Abigail Woodward, the widow of Parson Woodward, well-known in Weston history.* She lived in the house until her husband's death in 1800. During Col. Marshall's ownership the house maintained the dignity and elegance of its former days. It is said that James Otis, the eminent patriot and orator, wrote to Col. Marshall requesting him to find some place in Weston where his family could spend the summer and where there would be ample accommodation for his horses and carriages. Col. Marshall reported that he could find no suitable place but offered him the hospitality of his own house which Otis accepted.

Col. Marshall died in 1800 and his will bequeathed out of his estate "$1666.66 from which to make an annual payment to his beloved wife of $100.00 (one-quarter yearly during her life) the principal to be used to make up the deficiency provided the income is insufficient." Whether or not she lived within her income, history doesn't say. It is hard in these days of inflation to realize it was possible to live on what seems so little. However, the fact that the property was sold in 1801, four years before Abigail died, might indicate that her husband hadn't left her enough to continue life in the manner to which she had grown accustomed.

*See Weston Historical Society Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 2, January 1969.

In 1801 the house was deeded to John Clark, a Cambridge physician who died in 1805. Quoting Clark's will in part ". . . if it meets the wishes of my surviving friends," (that my body) "be buried in some part of the farm where I now reside." No evidence of these wishes being carried out has come to light as far as I know.

The house changed hands again in 1808, the new owner being Ruth MacKay, Clark's mother-in-law, and she lived there until her death thirty-two years later. "From my earliest rememberance," Mr. Fiske wrote, "it was called the MacKay farm."

(Mrs. MacKay's son, John, was in the piano business and it was during these years that ivory for piano keys was taken to Weston to be bleached in a pond on the farm, all of which will be dealt with in a continuation of this article.)

The foregoing is the seventh in a series of eight articles on historic Weston buildings by our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson. It will be concluded in our next issue.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Everyone agrees that the Weston Historical Society is a solid institution that must grow stronger with the years. An endowment fund of growing size will safeguard the future, and the present practice of spending *income only* should be preserved.

It is the policy of the directors to use for current operating expenses if necessary, only the income from the principal, which is in truth the beginning of our Endowment Fund, derived from the payment of life memberships. In the seven years of our Society's existence, only nine life members have enrolled as life members by the payment of two hundred dollars. Such life membership entitles them to all privileges of the Society during their lifetime without payment of annual dues. The income itself is in excess of the nominal annual dues for regular members.

We'd like to see the list of life members substantially increased. The directors would like to know how many members would be interested in a husband and wife life membership involving the whole family or, for example, a father and son, mother and daughter, brother and sister, or similar family grouping. Address your recommendations to us at Box 343, Weston Massachusetts 02193.

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The Weston Historical Society Bulletin

OCTOBER 1970

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

JANUARY 1971, VOL. VII, NO. 2

Piano made by Babcock when he was connected with John MacKay. *Nearer My God to Thee* was composed on this piano. It is quite possible that the ivory keys were bleached on the MacKay Farm in Weston. (See The House That Traveled).

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT: SAVE APRIL THIRTEENTH

Edward Rowe Snow has been engaged by Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, Chairman of the Program Committee, to address our Charter Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday evening, April thirteenth, in the Senior High School. In view of the speaker's widespread popularity, we wish to give our members maximum advance notice. Again this year, Mrs. George Pink will be in charge of arrangements and, as usual, it will be an evening of festive fellowship and fine food. Further details will follow in our next bulletin but meanwhile, mark the date and plan to be with us.

A HOUSE THAT TRAVELED

(Continued)

As mentioned in the last installment, the Elisha Jones homestead, or West house, came into the possession of Mrs. Ruth MacKay in 1808. She had a son, John MacKay, a well-to-do businessman in Boston who was associated with Alpheus Babcock in the manufacture of pianos. These pianos were marked "A Babcock for MacKay." One is in the Essex Institute in Salem and it is particularly interesting because it belonged to Lowell Mason who composed the well-known hymn *Nearer My God to Thee* on it.

About 1829 Babcock moved to Philadelphia and MacKay became a partner of Jonas Chickering, a young man whose hand-made pianos had gained a reputation for their superior tonal quality; but production was on a strictly limited basis due to lack of funds. MacKay supplied capital and the firm of Chickering and MacKay was founded. During this association and very possibly earlier, ivory was taken to the MacKay farm in Weston and put on frames in the yard to bleach. In those days there were no chemicals to attain the desired whiteness — only pure spring water and sunshine. It has been said that the water in the MacKay spring had certain properties that enhanced the bleaching process but there is no proof of its having had anything other than purity — a property that nineteenth century Boston water certainly lacked. For years the supply of water in the city wells had been diminishing and what was left was badly contaminated. A proponent of an aqueduct for a new supply from up country wrote, ". . . one specimen which gave three per cent animal and vegetable putrescent matter, was publicly sold as a mineral water; it was believed that water having such a remarkable fetid odor and nauseous taste could be no other than that of a sulfur spring; but its medicinal powers vanished with the discovery that the spring arose from a neighboring drain."

John MacKay inherited the farm when his mother died and he sold it in 1838 with certain restrictions — reserving the right to enter the property and use "the glass house and the land whereon it stands . . . and the right also of erecting another glass house twelve feet square for the bleaching of ivory and the right to rebuild said glass house whenever it may become necessary and reserving the right also . . . of entering upon the premises and using a spring at the southeasterly part of the granary and glass house for the purpose of bleaching ivory." No other person except by MacKay's or his heirs' consent could bleach ivory in the spring and no horses or cattle could drink there except in times of drought.

Philip Mayer, a well-known Boston confectioner who furnished the best families with candy, owned the property for many years after MacKay left and when he sold it, it was with the same restrictions mentioned in the MacKay deed; but in subsequent transfers no such mention is made nor is there any evidence of the spring's being used for bleaching after MacKay's ownership.

MacKay made frequent voyages to South American ports carrying down shiploads of pianos and bringing back mahogany and rosewood for new cases. On the 1841 voyage the ship was lost and apparently MacKay went down with it as he was never heard from again. Chickering bought out the MacKay interest in the firm and it became *Chickering & Son* and continued for many years as an important piano manufacturer.

William Roberts was the next owner of the Elisha Jones property after Philip Mayer and soon after acquiring it he sold it to General Charles J. Paine whose heirs

still own the land but not the old homstead. In the 1880s General Paine decided the house was too small for his needs and he offered it to Charles H. Fiske Esq. who wrote: "he made a free gift of it (the house) to me provided I would move it, which offer I gladly accepted and it then started on its pilgrimage across the fields to the Main road now called Central Avenue; and along this road until it was placed for a short time on land belonging to the heirs of Isaac Fiske." This location was between the present Nichols house and Fiske Lane. Mr. Fiske was dissatisfied with this location and moved it on to Church Street where it stands today. Two piazzas and an ell were added, the chimneys newly built and inside floorings and partitions changed somewhat, but "in general, with these exceptions, the house stands in its grandeur, as it did when I first knew it many years ago."

EDITORIAL

Resources of the Weston Historical Society are both human and financial. The more actively our members pursue our goals, the greater heritage will we leave to oncoming generations. Presently thirty members are surveying the houses, buildings, and sites that lie along the Post Road from Wayland to Waltham. After processing by our local Commission, salient extracts will be submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission under whose protection landmarks will be better shielded from destruction. These contributions in talent and time are appreciated as fully as money.

It has often been said of Weston that its greatness springs from the fusion of doers and workers with the generous giving of money by others. The comraderie, naturalness, and smoothness that attend this merging of the town's resources, are as apparent today as in days of yore. Now that there are so many more of us, it is more important than ever that we maintain this tradition of working together. Opportunities are boundless in the townwide scope of our Society's activities. We need and welcome the support of every member and indeed of every family in this exceptional town of ours.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recent anonymous donations of one hundred and three hundred dollars respectively enabled us to install natural gas heat in our Law Office headquarters. The balance of two hundred dollars came from our treasury. Any member who wishes to contribute to the heating fund may send check to us at Box 343, Weston. Greater use of the law office is now planned, including the gathering of small groups to explore the stories that lie latent in our library there. Their findings should form the basis of discussions that could last for years. Three additional bookcases have been made by Roy L. Dickson and are in use in the upstairs display room.

The endowment fund which recently came only from life memberships has been augmented by the generous bequest of our late director, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet, and by contributions from various members in memory of the late Mrs. Charles P. Gorely, Jr.

Officers

President: Harold G. Travis
Vice President: Edward W. Marshall
Recording Secretary: John G. Brooks
Treasurer: Roy L. Dickson

Directors: J. Kenneth Bennett, John W. Boyd, Brenton H. Dickson, Erlund Field, John L. Kronenberg, Edward W. Marshall, Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall, and Harold G. Travis.

Committees: Curator and Acting Archivist: Mrs. J. E. Fraser; Hospitality: Mrs. R. D. Wells and Mrs. G. J. Pink; Information: Mrs. F. D. Bonner; Liaison: Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall; Law Office: Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and Mrs. Harold G. Travis; Legal: John G. Brooks; Library: Grant M. Palmer, Jr.; Program: Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell; Research: Erlund Field.

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The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
JANUARY 1971

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1971, Vol. VII, No. 3

The Old Southwest Schoolhouse

Four of the six district schoolhouses built as replacements to older buildings in the early 1850's, are after 120 years, still in existence. Pictured above at the southwest corner of Brown and Winter Streets is No. 6, now altered quite beyond recognition. No.'s 1 and 2 at 280 and 700 Boston Post Road respectively, are the nuclei also of attractive private homes.

No. 5, visible on Ware Street some 250 feet from South Avenue, is the only one of the four survivors to retain its identity. Moved back 200 feet many years ago it has withstood usage quite foreign to education. For most of its life it had stood on the Ware Street-South Avenue corner, glancing across South Avenue diagonally to the house in which Mabel Page was murdered. Recent studies as to its restoration and return to its historic corner produced thoroughly discouraging cost estimates.

Of the other two mid 19th Century structures, No. 3, where President-to-be James Garfield once pondered the 3 R's, was located on Concord Road a few hundred feet beyond Merriam Street. Until the early 1940's, No. 4 from a vantage point on the North Avenue hillside, looked down Viles Street toward Hastings Station. Both 3 and 4 no longer exist, though the former's foundation can readily be discerned.

The Legends of Allen's Farm

Weston, like most Massachusetts towns, has its store of cracker-barrel tales and family legends, in many of which, with the sobering passage of time, Revolutionary Patriots and Tories keep a somewhat easier company. Such stories, carefully examined and verified, can point the way to hidden facts, and bring to life neglected aspects of local history.

The paradox of conflicting Revolutionary War traditions belonging to Weston's oldest house, at the corner of Chestnut and Wellesley Streets, is a case in point.* (*See *Bulletin,* Vol. II, No. 3, March, 1966, "The Scott House.") Now the residence of Mrs. John W. Scott, its original name was Allen's Farm. According to one legend a British or Tory "spy" was hidden in the smoke room by the great chimney. Other legends, however, relate to the patriot activities at Allen's of Thomas Rand and his sons, said to have cast and trimmed bullets for the Weston Minutemen in the lean-to at the rear, and to have been at work on a barn when the Alarm of April 19, 1775 was carried to Weston.

It is of record that the Rand family were keen patriots. Thomas Rand and his son Thomas marched to Lexington and Concord with the Weston Company under then Captain Samuel Lamson. Both Thomas Rand, Jr., and his brother Benjamin later served in the Continental Army, Benjamin taking part in the expedition to Quebec in 1777. Thomas Rand, Senior, was a Selectman, member of the Weston War Committee, and for a time, one of the townsmen who kept the warning beacon on Sanderson's Hill.

The Rands appear hardly the sort to have harbored a Tory or spy for the British in Boston. Yet the legend of the hidden man at Allen's Farm came into being, and for long afterward both the tellers and their hearers had witnessed the trying years of the Revolution. Public scorn being the traditional — and effective — sanction of the cracker-barrel, one is led to the assumption that, however contradictory, all these tales of Allen's Farm — later written down — are based in fact.

The published histories of Weston say little about the coming of the Rands to Allen's Farm, or the circumstances under which it took place. Part of the mystery is resolved, however, by eighteenth-century documents in the Public Record Office, London, which show that for some time after the outbreak of the Revolution Allen's Farm was in Tory hands. Until March, 1781, it belonged to the estate of Col. Elisha Jones, a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County, Selectman and holder of town offices, and for many years Weston's representative in the General Court. Col. Jones was a Tory, and Allen's Farm thus could well have afforded refuge for persons who then opposed armed revolt and called themselves "Friends of Government."

Allen's was a family farm in the best of Weston's pioneer tradition, passed down as the old custom was usually from youngest son to youngest son. When, in 1758, David Allen, a great-grandson of Walter Allen who settled at Watertown Farms in 1665, sold the sixty-acre property to Col. Elisha Jones for £250, it did not pass to strangers: Col. Jones's wife Mary was a daughter of Deacon Nathaniel Allen of Weston, and David Allen's cousin.

After 1758 Allen's farm continued as a mixed farm of tillage and pasture, "much improved" in the years before the Revolution, however, by Col. Jones. Like Brig. Timothy Ruggles of Hardwick and James Putnam of Worcester, he was among the handful of well-to-do Massachusetts landowners who by mid-century had begun to apply the English ideas of "New Husbandry." In 1786 one of Col. Jones's younger sons, Lt. Jonas Jones of the 20th Regiment of Foot, valued Allen's Farm at £350.

With the coming of the Revolution the history of Allen's Farm garnered that store of mystery — and silence — which still cloak the fate of many a Tory property. After repeated threats of violence by the "Liberty Men" of Weston and surrounding towns, Col. Elisha Jones fled to Boston and the safety of the British lines at the beginning of October, 1774. He never returned home, and died in Boston shortly before the evacuation, February 13, 1776.

Col. Jones's mansion house* (which then stood in Highland Street on the present site of the Paine House) and hundred-acre "home farm" was for several years occupied with permission of the Weston War Committee by his son-in-law, the Rev. Asa Dunbar, colleague of the Rev. Thomas Barnard of Salem, and his wife, Mary (Jones) Dunbar.

(Continued on Page 5)

Charter Anniversary Dinner, April Thirteenth Features Colorful Edward Rowe Snow

A large turnout is expected at the annual Charter Anniversary Dinner in the Senior High School Cafeteria on Tuesday evening, April 13th, at 6:45 sharp. Mrs. George J. Pink of the Hospitality Committee is in charge of the dinner and decorations. Reservations, payable in advance, should be mailed not later than April 8th so that the record crowd can smoothly be served. All members of the Weston Historical Society are invited to the dinner and to bring guests. The charge for both the four-course dinner and subsequent illustrated lecture is four dollars per person.

Our guest speaker, engaged by Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell and her Program Committee, is the widely popular Edward Rowe Snow, a Massachusetts descendant with one exception of sea captains back to the Revolution. He has been called by the New York Times "the best chronicler of the days of sail alive today." His daily series of articles in one of Boston's largest newspapers reveal his outstanding personality, but Weston is to have him in person where he is at his best.

Mr. Snow has lived dramatically. He sailed the ocean highway as a seaman in the forecastle, been an "extra" in Hollywood, was a fullback and punter on Harvard football teams in the early '30's, and won over 170 medals in swimming and track competition. During World War II he was wounded as an Air Corps officer in the African invasion. His greatest interest has centered on a study of pirates, treasure, lighthouses, shipwrecks, and ghosts. Publisher of sixty-six books on his hobbies, his correspondence is vast. Adding to his color is the revelation that he has been the real "Flying Santa" who has flown over lighthouses from Labrador to Florida, the Great Lakes, and the West Coast.

Such a man wholesomely exudes robust dedication to the ways of the sea and to the men that mastered it in all its moods. For that reason, attendance at the dinner is expected to reach capacity. In order then to ensure that the maximum number of Weston people enjoy his lecture, tell your neighbors who may be unable as guests to attend the dinner, that they will be able to hear Mr. Snow in the Auditorium at $1 each. The price for teenage students has been reduced to fifty cents each, for even though it is a "school night," we'd like to see a big turnout of that generation too.

FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL TODAY

BE WISE MAIL EARLY (Deadline is April 8th).

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 343
WESTON, MASS. 02193

Please reserve _____ seats in my name for the April 13th CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER at $4 each. I enclose check for $_____.

Signed _____(Member)

NOTE: Of course your check may include also voluntary contributions for special or general purposes as well as for dues that may be past due. If in doubt, consult our treasurer, Mr. Dickson, at 899-2450.

Two Centuries Ago They Kept The Cost of Government Down

At the Town Meeting of November 22, 1771 it was "VOTED by the Inhabitants that they do not allow Mr. William Whitney's account of what he charged for work in repairing the roads and bridges in his district."

Also, "PUT TO VOTE . . . if they allow Samuel Train, Jr., Surveyor, £3-11-0-0 which was the account that he gave in to the Town and it passed in the negative, but VOTED to pay said Samuel Train, Jr., Surveyor, £0-15-9-0 for Plank and string peaces."

Finally it was VOTED by the Inhabitants, the Sum of Sixty Pounds to support Schooling and Defray the usual charges of the Town the present year," and that it "have 5 Reading and Writing schools in the winter season."

Editor's Note: We must salute the gentle politeness of the recorder who, two centuries ago, in reporting the defeat of a motion, declared it to have *"passed in the negative."*

Other parts of Col. Jones's estate in Weston, however, appear to have been "detached" and appropriated by various persons to their own profit with little or no sanction by the Weston authorities. In May, 1775 the Committee of Safety complained to the Provincial Congress that Jonathan Brewer of Waltham had seized two horses belonging to Colonel Jones and given "a lease of a part of Colonel Jones's real estate, without the least pretense of right, taking security therefor in his own name . . ."

Before this, and before the Lexington Alarm, Thomas Rand, who already owned land on the north and east boundaries, had taken possession of Allen's Farm. But it was to be more than six years until he gained title to the property, through purchase from the government of Massachusetts at the sale of Col. Elisha Jones's confiscated estate in Weston on March 9, 1781. The price to Thomas Rand was the very low figure of £185, considering the inflated prices and depreciated currency of the time a bargain of suspicious proportions. The official schedule of Allen's Farm, prepared by order of the Provincial Assembly, described it as follows:

> " . . . about Sixty Acres of Land situated in said Weston called Allen's Farm, bounded northerly on land of Jonas Harrington, Nathan Hobbs, Oliver Barber, and Thomas Rand and John Allen. Southerly on land of Isaac Jones and John Coborn, Westerly on land of Isaac Jones and John Coborn . . ."

Doris Whipple Jones

*see *Bulletin,* Vol. VII, No. 2, January 1971, "The House That Traveled."

Editor's Note: Doris Whipple Jones, (Mrs. Lionel F. Baker), lives in Hertfordshire, England. A member of the Weston Historical Society, she is a descendant of Elisha Jones of Weston, and is in fact, related to several of our members.

Dates To Remember

We are one of more than 200 local Massachusetts historical societies that belong to the Bay State Historical League. Weston Historical Society members are invited to attend all regular League meetings which are held in various sections of the Commonwealth. The program is always stimulating to several hundred people from all over the state who get together at historic places, hear interesting speakers, and exchange ideas. Our president is serving a three-year term on the Board of Directors, and Mrs. D. S. Thrall is chairman of our Liaison Committee. The next three meetings are at Berlin, (Mass.) April 19th, Plymouth, June 26th, and Billerica, October 16th. Call Mrs. Thrall at 899-0723 for further details.

Welcome New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Avery, 55 Chestnut Street
Dr. and Mrs. John S. Banas, Jr., 65 Rolling Lane
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Greenwood, 30 Intervale Road

Spring Is Near

Keep your eye on the old-fashioned bulb garden at the rear of our Law Office headquarters.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 25c. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner, 893-4346.

The Weston Historical Society

Bulletin

MARCH 1971

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1971, Vol. VII, No. 4

Whittemore House as it appeared at the turn of the century. Originally built as a Congregational Church it was later converted into a dwelling house by Mr. Homer Whittemore. Today it belongs to the Baptist Church and is used as a Parish House and for Sunday School.

Memorial Day Open Houses

Both our headquarters at the Isaac Fiske Law Office and our museum in the Josiah Smith Tavern will be open to members and their guests on Monday, May 31st, from noon to three P.M. A large reunion of old and new friends is expected immediately following the traditional Memorial Day Parade and the concert on the steps of the Town House across the Green.

As a special feature, the Curator's Committee has arranged to display the new acquisitions of the past two years, particularly the unique and tasteful costumes, fans, etc. that Mrs. Frank Owen has recently given to the Society. In charge of the exhibit is Mrs. Edward Hall, and light refreshments will be served by our gracious Hospitality Committee.

Announcement of Interest

The Bay State Historical League has broadened its base of membership whereby individuals and corporations may become *associate* members with all rights and privileges except voting. Founded in 1903, the League's membership comprises more than two hundred and twenty local historical societies and commissions of Massachusetts. A booklet describing its many services and benefits is on view at our Society's headquarters in the Isaac Fiske Law Office and in our rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Through the years many of our members have attended the stimulating meetings that are held quarterly throughout the Commonwealth. Mutual exchange of ideas with leaders in the historical field is both pleasant and instructive. The quarterly Bulletin which is sent to all members contains much information and inspiration. The Weston Historical Society is a regular member and our president is a director. To keep intimately posted on all League affairs and events, our members may join as associate members at dues of $5.00 per annum. Corporations and banks likewise may become associate members at $100 annually, and it is hoped that many from this community will support this very important work particularly at a time when we are preparing to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution four years hence. A member of the League sits on the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission. Application blanks for membership may be obtained from Mr. Travis, 899-4515.

We Can Use More Volunteers

Now that heat has been installed in the Law Office, our headquarters there will be open year-round on Wednesdays from two to four. Wouldn't you and your friends enjoy sitting together down there for an hour or so amid such attractive surroundings to welcome visitors? At this time of year, the garden is particularly pleasant. Just call Mrs. Ford at 899-8171. If no answer, dial 899-4515 or 893-7388. Already many people are forming the habit of dropping into our rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern where the Curator's committee extends such a cordial welcome, and the Law Office is a gracious supplement thereto.

An even steadier and urgent need lies in the Archivist field. We have a great many valuable papers, photographs, and records that need constant cataloguing and revising. Somewhere in our vast membership we hope to find a ready and qualified volunteer to supervise this vital phase of our work. Through the generosity of our friends we are accumulating more material and it is obviously imperative that we guard it well and protect it for the future. If you are willing to help, we'll put you to work. Call Mrs. Fraser, 894-2872.

New Members

A warm hand of welcome is extended to the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis H. Dana, 35 Woodchester Drive
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Mayer, 338 Boston Post Road
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLaughlin, 71 Lexington Street
and Mr. Kenneth Roy, 205 Newton Street (fifth generation of the Upham family in Weston).

Many Splendored Westons

Dr. Vera Laska

1

One lazy summer afternoon I was enjoying a quiet walk over the forest trails of our Weston. My thoughts wandered from birds to creeks, from farming to population explosion. Casually I recalled a walk in another Weston in Vermont; there were similarities in the surrounding woods, the peace and quiet, the occasional hiker met in the solitude of the trail. By sheer association of thought, I was suddenly in Cobb's Hill, one of my favored New England restaurants, located — you guessed it — in Weston, Connecticut. Out of the blue I was reading mentally a letter received months ago from friends at Argonne Laboratories near Chicago, who mentioned that perhaps in the future they would also reside in a Weston, if the new accelerator would be built there. . . .

History is a dangerous subject. One idea follows another; you try in vain to direct your thoughts elsewhere; the ideas persist and engulf you: just how many Westons are there? Where are they? What are they like? What do people do there? Are the other Westons older than our own? The urge to find at least some of the answers to these persisting questions sent me home to atlases and reference books. Once I know that there are — most likely — a half dozen Westons all over the United States, my mind will rest peacefully. One atlas listed nine Westons, another sixteen! One source did not mention Weston in Massachusetts — how many others did it omit? I could not rest my case with such unfinished business. What started as an innocent thought, became a little research project in its own right. After much searching and correspondence I tabulated the results of a questionnaire sent to about two dozen Westons; a rather interesting mosaic emerged.

I found twenty-two Westons in the United States, namely in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois (two), Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin (two) and Wyoming.

2

The Westons of New England are of course the oldest ones — especially since I did not come upon any among Virginia's early settlements. Weston in New Hampshire could not be traced; the listing of it must have been for an earlier settlement that either disappeared or melted into another town. Of the remaining four New England Westons, ours in Massachusetts is without any doubt the oldest, which makes it the most ancient one in the United States. The respective years for the first known settlement and for the incorporation of the four New England Westons are:

Weston (originally part of Watertown), Mass.	1640's	1713
Weston, Connecticut	1756	1757
Weston (originally part of Andover), Vermont	1761	1800
Weston, Maine	1828	1835

In New England, Weston, Connecticut compares most closely in size to our Weston. Our Connecticut sister town is expected to grow soon to almost double its 1960 size. My correspondent from its Historical Society predicted almost 15,000 residents by the seventies. The Westons in Vermont and in Maine are much smaller in size, having had 450 and 210 residents respectively in 1950. During the sixties, the population of the former was expected to increase moderately, while in the latter to decrease drastically by about one third to 140. This realistic estimate was made by one of the selectmen of Weston, Maine. Shocking as these figures might appear when contrasted with the population explosion elsewhere, they are understandably typical of many northern New England towns, which are losing their young people to the lure of the cities.

All four Westons still have a variation of the New England type of government with town meetings and selectmen; none has major industries, although Weston in Maine lists a dairy and lumber industry. Westonites from Vermont send their children to out of town district schools; Weston in Maine maintains its own primary and secondary schools; Weston in Connecticut has four primary and one secondary school, all public institutions. Weston in Maine has one Protestant church; the other two towns both have one Catholic and two Protestant churches.

3

This historian in me had been surprised that our town waited until 1963 to organize an Historical Society; it might serve as a consolation to know that Weston, Connecticut founded its Historical Society only two years before us, Weston, Vermont two years after us, while Weston in Maine has none.

The history consciousness of the Westonites in the Green Mountain State is noteworthy. While once almost deserted, the town is now a showplace of historic restoration reflecting an old pioneer village. Entering the Farrar-Mansur house you find yourself in a century old tavern; thanks to the efforts of the Vermont Guild of Old Time Crafts and Industries, visitors may enjoy viewing woodworking and weaving shops and a water powered gristmill in action. Even so, our residential Weston with its many restored buildings need not take a back seat.

3

Venturing outside New England, there is quite a crop of Westons. In the Midwest, both Illinois and Wisconsin offer two Westons. In the Land of Lincoln there is a Weston in McLean County; settled around 1850, it is an unincorporated township where the lives of three hundred or so inhabitants center around grain.

The other Weston is nearer to Chicago, or rather used to be, just slightly west of the Windy City in Du Page County. This village of Weston was created in 1963 as a real estate development in the town of Batavia; by 1968 it had 550 residents. Then the place won the much contested bid as the site of the National Accelerator Laboratory. The site was officially acquired by the state of Illinois for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Nearing completion there is the 250 million dollar accelerator, the largest in the world. The biggest single component of the system is a concrete ring enclosure, four miles in circumference and one and a quarter miles in diameter. In September 1970, twenty-two months after the last residents were moved out, the Circuit Court in Wheaton signed the dissolution papers. Thus this Weston passed into history seven years after its birth. Nobody resides there now; the houses were moved or linked together, serving as laboratories and offices for the builders and scientists.

Somebody there must have a special predilection for western lore; most of the streets bear Indian names as Blackhawk Boulevard, Winnebago, Potawatomi and others; a herd of buffalos was imported, and the animals roam openly as on a range. What a picture of twentieth century America: accelerator and buffalos sharing the same space!

There is still another aspect to the N. A. L. Village in Batavia, as former Weston is now called. In the summer of 1970 students of anthropology professor Stuart Struever of Northwestern University in Evanston uncovered some two dozen pre-historic sites as they searched the entire 6,800 acre grounds. Fourteen sites belonged to the Archaic period (from about 7500 to 1000 B.C.), others to the later Woodland and Mississipian periods.

I had quite a time untangling the two Westons in Wisconsin. My inquiry addressed to "Weston, Wisconsin" brought a nice package of information; on the map I found Weston, Wisconsin; yet the information did not match at all what I saw on the map: wrong rivers, wrong distances from large towns, wrong railroads. After extended mental acrobatics I concluded that there are two Westons in the Dairyland of America, but maps list only one: Weston in Dunn County, a small town in the western part of the state with a few hundred inhabitants. It must have been fate that directed my postal inquiry not to this Weston, but to the other one: Weston in Marathon County of central Wisconsin, with about 6,000 people.

This town has quite a story. It was settled in 1842 when the fur frontier was invaded by lumbermen, who made their first camps on the Eau Claire river. Early history of that region is full of stories on log running, timber rafts, and drownings among the lumberjacks. In the 1840's a thousand feet of select pine brought six dollars; a hundred years later the price was four hundred! Laborers were paid in the early days about sixteen dollars and "keep" monthly; wages were usually paid in lumber. Shortly after 1842, the first mill was built and launched an industry that flourished for about a century. Photographs from around the turn of the century show lumber sleds piled up with logs as high as sixteen feet, scaling over 16,000 feet of wood at present prices in the neighborhood of $5,000 per load! Senseless exploitation of nature and lack of conservation killed the industry. By 1942 not a single mill operated along the Eau Claire river. In 1856 three towns were created by Marathon County: Mosinee, Wausau and Eau Claire; the latter adopted three years later the name Weston, after a somewhat obscurely documented pioneer, Charley Weston. As time went on, about a dozen parts broke away from the original town and

formed their own governments; the last thus to leave was the village of Rothschild in 1917. In 1904 the present city of Schofield was created, which is worthy of mentioning because today this former "colony" of Weston is its mother city; the town of Weston is a municipality which is officially part of Schofield; an analogy would be Great Britain as one of the states of the U. S. The history of the American lumber frontier can be illustrated in the town of Weston, Wisconsin: just as the cattle kingdom or the fur frontier, so this lumber frontier ran its course; it had its accelerated rise and decline. The town switched from forestry to agriculture, concentrating on potatoes, grains and dairy products. In 1959 on the occasion of its centennial, the town Historical Committee commemorated the event with an extensive pamphlet, in which nostalgia is entwined with civic pride and optimism for the future.

4

The town historian of Tyrone, New York, added a warm personal touch to her report by sending along a handwritten letter. Her Weston is a "populated village," not incorporated, with a constant population of 85-90 souls. It is in the middle of a vacation area, with one Protestant church, general store, liquor store, garage, boat storage and kennel, "as well as a place to buy a pony, if you are young at heart." It was first settled in 1800; in the nineteenth century it used to be a busy place and trading center, with two churches, school, post office, tavern, hotel and several businesses. Those were the days gone by; the historian herself found it interesting to leaf through old records to bring to light the history of the place that changed so much. What is unique about this Weston is the fact that nearby is the site of New York's oldest known Indian village, dating from around the year 1000 B. C.

Journeying to Weston, Missouri, we come into a different world. The town was first settled in 1837, incorporated five years later, and named after an officer from Fort Leavenworth who helped lay out the town. In 1960 it had 1012 residents, but expected to grow to 1500 by the time of the next census. As most towns outside the New England area, it has a mayor and town council. There are four public schools, four Protestant and one Catholic churches. Livelihood is based to a large extent on tobacco — the town boasts of the only tobacco auctionhouse west of the Mississippi. I surmise that corn must be of importance there, too, not only because there is one of the country's oldest distilleries there, but because in 1928 the National Corn Husking Contest took place in the town.

While my correspondent from Weston, Missouri was the City Collector, the town has a very active Historical Society, founded in 1945. In 1960 the Weston Historical Museum was opened; it also offers tours of about half a dozen ante-bellum homes; on some tour days they clocked as many as 30,000 visitors. Among the historic homes is one in which Buffalo Bill Cody lived with his uncle, and another one built by the stage-coach king Benjamin Holladay. The pamphlet about historic Weston mentions that the town used to be the "Queen of the Steamboat Days." Truly steamboats docked from about the time of Jackson to the days of Cleveland; but in the eighties the Mississippi river started edging away; today it is three miles from town, thus ending a chapter in the history of Weston, Missouri. This town also is unique in having had a genuine Polish count for its first priest, but expatiating on that would make the story too long.

Weston in Wyoming turned out to be not a town, only a post office, store and gas station, as the postmaster informed me. It is in the middle of cattle country and "very pretty we think;" the place was named appropriately after an early-day cow puncher, who was a noted bronco buster and also ran the post office!

The Weston in the Rockies of Colorado was originally, in 1880, named La Junta, because the three forks of the Purgatorie [*sic*] river meet there; but it caused confusion with another place of the same name, hence it was rechristened Weston, honoring the first settler, Julien Albert Weston. It has a primary and secondary school, a Catholic and a Protestant church. Population in 1960 was 260, but is down by about a hundred. The residents are working in one of the most mechanized mines of the world; others raise cattle or do lumbering.

Moving westward we reach Weston in Idaho, which was settled during the Civil War and incorporated in 1901. It was first settled in old pioneer days (Idaho was admitted to the Union in 1890) by the Mormons. Around the time of World War I the town had over a thousand inhabitants, but nowadays the young people are leaving. In 1960 there were 600 people living there, now only 300. They have one primary public school and a Mormon church. The chief occupation is agriculture.

Weston in Oregon was incorporated in 1878, almost twenty years after the Beaver State entered the Union. While its population almost doubled from 1940 to 748 residents in 1960, it has no expectations of change in the population. It is located near the old Oregon Trail; it has an elementary and a secondary school and four Protestant churches. The mainstay of the area is agriculture, including the canning of some products. Skiing is good in the neighboring Tollgate area. While many cities in eastern Oregon may be larger than Weston, "none exceed it in exuberant civic-mindedness. The homes are neat, well kept, showing pride in ownership and belonging to Weston."

5

The above stories are the result of my exploratory research. There are other Westons in Canada, in England and in other parts of the English speaking world. There is a Weston Point in the Pacific on Fanning Island (and I am ready to accept a travel grant to investigate that one, in the path of north-east tradewinds and among exotic palm trees). There may be other undetected Westons within the United States.

I satisfied my own curiosity as to the identities of some Westons in America, and gladly share them with the residents of our own Weston. I am content that we are not necessarily the largest — but then we do not want to be; our ambitions do not lie in the direction of a big town but rather in preserving a peaceful country atmosphere. As an historian I take pride in having rendered certain that ours is the oldest Weston in this country. I hope that other Westonites will be "Weston conscious" in their travels and thus will augment our knowledge of our counterparts elsewhere.

I satisfied my intellect and my soul. If there be anybody wishing to continue the search, I welcome it in the spirit of the common cause.

Dr. Vera Laska, M.A. in history, M.A. in philosophy; Ph.D. in American History, Univ. of Chicago;
Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences, Regis College, Weston;
Chairman of Weston Historical Commission.

Peeking at Random
(into the Isaac Fiske Law Office Library)

Beginning on Page 67 of "Reports of Controverted Elections in the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1780 to 1852" as published by White and Potter, Printers to the State in 1853, we find the following regarding a spirited 1809 contest in Weston that was lost by our own Isaac Fiske 81 votes to 80: — "WESTON

Where a member returned was elected by a majority of one vote, and it appeared that several persons, legally qualified, who were present and desired to vote at the election, were prohibited by the selectmen from so doing, the election was held void, although it did not appear that any more than one of the rejected voters would have voted against the sitting member, if they had been permitted to vote.

"The election of Ebenezer Hobbs, returned a member from the town of Weston, was controverted by Joseph Russell and others, on the several grounds that the selectmen were improperly chosen, and also that they rejected votes which ought to have been admitted.

"The committee on elections do not appear to have considered the first point, but in relation to the other they reported that the member returned had a majority of one vote . . . ; and that several persons legally qualified and who ought to have been permitted to vote, were prohibited by the selectmen . . . although they were present and desired to have that privilege, for which reason the committee were of the opinion that Mr. Hobbs was not legally chosen."

The committee accompanied the report by the following statement of facts, respecting the qualifications of persons who were prohibited by the selectmen from voting: —

1. "Alpheus Bigelow, Jr., is a young man whose parents are settled and reside in Weston, where he was also born; he is about twenty-four years of age, and is now a student at the University in Cambridge, in the junior class; he performs on Sunday on the organ at Cambridgeport meeting house for which he receives a compensation; he

resides at Weston during vacation, unless he can obtain employment elsewhere, which he sometimes has done; he has his washing and mending done at his father's in Weston . . . but was refused by the selectmen; he still attended the meeting and tendered his vote (for a candidate opposed to Mr. Hobbs) which was also refused.

2. "Isaac Sanderson is also a native of Weston where his father settled and is a young man, unmarried; he resided at Lexington about forty days in the spring of 1808 and also about four days in June following; . . . his father then died and he was administrator on his father's estate and has resided at Weston ever since. . . . He applied to have his name placed upon the list of voters in May but was refused; he attended the meeting but did not vote, and the only objection made by the selectmen was his want of residence in Weston.

3. "Jonathan Ryan came to Weston in March 1807; lived there the greater part of the year. . . . About two months and a half in the beginning of the year 1809, he was absent on a journey but returned last March and has resided there since; he applied but was refused by the selectmen for want of residence; he attended the meeting but did not vote.

4. "Nathan Childs lived in Weston with Mrs. Jane Clark from November 1806 till April 1808 and continued at the same farm which was sold to Mrs. Mackay, the mother of Mrs. Clark, until November 1808. Mrs. Clark then went to live in Boston, and some difficulty occurring with respect to Childs's wife, he went to live with Mrs. Clark in Boston, agreeing to return to work upon the said farm whenever called upon, and actually did, in the winter, go there several times from five to seven days each time. Mrs. Mackay paid him half his wages; considered him as in her employ, and has agreed with him to live with her till April 1st, 1810; and during the time he was in Boston he was frequently employed in loading her teams. . . . The objection to his having his name placed on the list of voters was his want of the qualification of residence . . ."

Ten pages later, the case is concluded with the words: —

"The committee reported that Hobbs was duly elected." Town records show that Ebenezer Hobbs and Isaac Fiske each served four terms apiece in the General Court, Hobbs in 1807, 9, 10, and 11; — Fiske in 1808, 12, 13, and 14.

Law Office Open Wednesdays Too

The society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern continue to be open Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 and arrangements have been made to have our headquarters in the Isaac Fiske Law Office open at the same time. Members who would like to act as hostesses are urged to call Mrs. Fraser, 894-2872, Mrs. Ford, 899-8171 or Mrs. Travis, 899-4515. We continue to seek a few members to serve in the Archivist Department. Make your talents and availability known to the president or other officers.

Memorial Fund Established

At its April 5th meeting, the Board of Directors voted to set up a Memorial Fund in which bequests and contributions in memory of departed members will be pooled. It will be a part of the general Endowment Fund that was created in 1964 with life memberships and special gifts. Only the income therefrom will be used for appropriate purposes as determined from time to time by the directors. With accumulated and unused interest, our Endowment Fund is now slightly in excess of $3,600. Further memorial gifts and life memberships will lift this figure substantially.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

Extra copies of the "Bulletin" are available for 25c. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner, 893-4346.

The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
MAY 1971

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1971, Vol. VIII No. 1

The Burgoyne Elm and its neighbors, the George Washington Memorial Highway marker, Weston Historical Society, and the old Central Cemetery.
Photo by Sherry Jenkins 1970

Our Historic Burgoyne Elm and Its Memories

All that's left of one of New England's oldest, most venerable elms today is its mammoth trunk, eighteen feet high and twenty-five feet around its base. Until four years ago, the Burgoyne Elm had for almost three centuries spread its branches over the old Boston Post Road and watched the race of men go by. To us it seemed to be "Mistress Eternal" but it had to give up the ghost finally on August 21st, 1967. With block and falls, its giant, lifeless, still majestic limbs were removed one by one, and our hearts were heavy. Until then many had come to feel that as long as that old tree stood there at 626 Boston Post Road nothing in today's suburban explosion could ever rob this town of its quiet charm and dignity. Only three months before in our May 1967 Bulletin, our historian Brenton H. Dickson had given us a lively account of the events long ago that led to the naming of this landmark.

Now it is timely as we cling with nostalgic adoration to its memorable history, to raise again the query: "Can't somebody somewhere come up with a practical suggestion for

prolonging its stately trunk far into the future?" No longer does the sap course through its body and the bark that's more than an inch in thickness is daily drying out and losing its gummy grip on the now almost ossified trunk. As a temporary restraint, three heavy steel bands of strapping have so far done the job. Inquiries to various chemical, horticultural, and mechanical experts having availed us nothing, we desperately appeal once more for a common sense idea.

Hopeful though we may be that some solution leading to such preservation can be brought to light, we realistically faced the inevitable two years before the giant elm's demise. In 1965, our then fellow townsman and member, Dr. Donald Wyman who has only recently retired as Horticulturist of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, propogated several scions of the historic tree from its seed. Now today, four of the babies, one already fifteen feet high, are quietly growing within a hundred feet of their mother. They are identified and tagged *"ULMUS: BURGOYNE"*. If nature continues to cooperate and we can keep the pests away, Weston will always have a Burgoyne Elm! The current odds may well be against us but the Weston Historical Society is doing its best to preserve Weston's rich history in this, and other, ways. By caring now for these little trees that surround our headquarters at the Isaac Fiske Law Office, we invite destiny to protect them in the centuries to come.

What history this old tree could tell. Its plaque reminds us that when it reached its first century it sheltered for one anxious, harried night more than two thousand footsore and weary British, German, and Hessian soldiers who had been captured by General Horatio Gates at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. They comprised probably half of General ("Gentleman Johnny") Burgoyne's army of 5,791 men who were being escorted by General John Glover to General Washington for encampment at Winter Hill, Somerville. The other half of Burgoyne's men were in the custody of General Brickett and passed through town at about the same time on the old Framingham Turnpike, now Route 30.

Gates agreed to Burgoyne's request that his surrender was to be known as "The Saratoga Convention" and his men as "captured soldiers",—not "prisoners". Also without consulting General Washington as he should have done, Gates promised that the captives would be returned to Europe on condition that they would never again fight in North America. His pledge proved worthless, for the Continental Congress, suspecting that the British would send them back into action, refused to parole them. After a hard winter at Cambridge and Somerville, the unhappy convention troops were subjected to another killing march. They were moved to a prison camp at Charlottesville, Virginia, and later to Pennsylvania. Not until Lord Cornwallis's surrender were they released.

On that night of November 6th, 1777, Generals Burgoyne and Baron von Riedesel, with their ladies, were entertained in luxury at nearby taverns but their mass of poorly disciplined troops were treated no better than cattle. These were men who had burned fences, destroyed crops of flax, grain, and hay, — robbed houses and molested householders. As Weston's little populace quaked in uneasiness, its unkempt and unwelcome visitors bedded down in the meadow beneath the old elm tree.

Little was ever written about that long night in Weston, the Puritan town! The town's treasurer was Major Samuel Lamson who two springs before, had led our Minute men toward Concord and Lexington. His report for the year 1777-78 shows that Joshua Jeaneson was paid his usual salary for "taking care of ye meeting house" during the entire year A few lines later, Major Lamson with typical brevity listed an even greater amount paid to the same Joshua for "cleaning up ye Meeting House immediately after the prisoners were taken at Bennington". It took the town weeks to restore cleanliness and recover from the largest dose of litter in its history.

Washington himself came by that tree at least twice. The monument nearby marks his passage through Weston in 1777 while enroute to Cambridge where he took command of the Continental Army. Later as president he revisited Weston and is said to have spent an October 1789 night at the home of his old friend, Colonel Thomas Marshall. (This lovely house still stands but at a different location—see "A House that Traveled" in our January 1971 BULLETIN.) In commemoration of our first president's 200th birthday in 1932, a stone marker was placed beneath the elm. It designates the old Boston Post Road as "The George Washington Memorial Highway". Directly across the street, determined apparently to outlive us all, are two quite decrepit buttonwood trees which, according to tree wardens, are older than our erstwhile elm. They too could tell us much of days that are gone.

Continued on Page 4

Annual Meeting Unusually Important

Tuesday evening, October 26th, at 8:00 P.M. sharp, the Josiah Smith Tavern ("Jones House") Ball Room will be the site of the annual meeting of our Society. Important announcements are anticipated and we expect the customary good turnout of enthusiastic members to hear reports of committees and officers, to participate in the active discussions relative to future plans and programs, and in all ways to join us in a stimulating "History Evening."

During the businesss meeting, Mrs. Margaret Floyd will tell how a couple dozen of our members have been working diligently this past year in helping the Weston Historical Commission of which she is currently chairman, to conduct and complete a survey of all houses and structures along the Boston Post Road from the Wayland to the Waltham line. This survey has great meaning to the whole town and the section along the Post Road is only the beginning of similar inventories that eventually should embrace every part of the town.

The terms of John W. Boyd, J. Kenneth Bennett and John L. Kronenburg will expire as directors at this meeting. A Nominating Committee comprising Samuel J. McDonald, Chairman, Mrs. Kirkbridge Patterson, Mrs. Horace Nichols and Homer C. Lucas will propose action thereon. This committee is anxious to have the benefit of your suggestions for members of this board. Directors whose terms are continuing are: 1972, Brenton H. Dickson, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall and Harold G. Travis; 1973, Erlund Field, Edward W. Marshall and Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols.

Present officers comprise Harold G. Travis, President; Edward W. Marshall, vice president; John G. Brooks, Recording Secretary; Roy L. Dickson, Treasurer. Mrs. J. E. Fraser is Curator with a large and helpful committee. Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell is chairman of the Program Committee, Mrs. F. Leslie Ford and Mrs. Harold G. Travis continue to supervise our headquarters at the Isaac Fiske Law Office; Mrs. Everett Schwartz, Jr. sees that tender loving care is extended to the bulb garden, Mrs. Reginald Wells and Mrs. George Pink head the Hospitality Committee, and Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall is chairman of liaison with other societies.

As the meeting's windup, Mr. James B. Muldoon will once more review some of the court decisions of yesteryear that are in turn amusing and still applicable to us today.

October 16 — BAY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
First Parish Church, Billerica Center, Rte. 3A
11 a.m. Meeting — Chowder Luncheon 11:30 to 1
Followed by tour of Lowell historic buildings
Contact Mrs. Thrall 891-0723

In addition to George Washington, three other presidents have passed our historic site. In 1798 while enroute to his home in Quincy, John Adams stopped here, declaring in a short address — "I congratulate the Town of Weston . . . upon all such may the choicest of blessings descend". Forty-two years later, James Garfield lived here with his grandfather while attending the Northwest School on Concord Road near its junction with Merriam Street. Later when president he had specifically planned a return visit in 1881 but an assassin's bullet forced cancellation of elaborate plans to welcome him. At Weston's dedication of its new Town Hall in 1917, Calvin Coolidge as lieutenant governor, never suspecting that within six years destiny would place him in our country's highest office, acclaimed its architectural glory and scenic setting.

Other famous men who passed through Weston along this all important highway included Colonel Paul Revere, Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin, and the Marquis de Lafayette. It would be futile to attempt in one short summary to record all the people of note and the exciting processions this tree has seen. We commend to all the satisfactions that would come out of a leisurely walk along the Boston Post Road from the Waltham to the Wayland line. Within a quarter of a mile of the Burgoyne Elm are markers that you probably never noticed, houses and mansions of whose significant history you are wholly unaware. Steadily through the years The BULLETIN tries to select stories of authentic interest but meanwhile you are urged to browse along this veritable HISTORY ROW independently. Every few steps will bring you to a fascinating story, the uncovering of which by yourself will add to its value and interest. For example you'd find across from the Fire Station, just a thousand feet east of the Burgoyne Elm, a little marker that says "through this place passed General Henry Knox in the winter of 1775-1776 to deliver to General George Washington at Cambridge the train of artillery from Fort Ticonderoga used to force the British Army to evacuate Boston". Under the elm itself is the Isaac Fiske office that was erected there in 1805. Five of his great great grandchildren plus their children and grandchildren still reside in Weston to carry on the tradition of their ancestor who distinguished himself in service to Town and Commonwealth. A few feet to the west is the unmarked site of the old Powder House which until 1834 stood at the edge of Central Cemetery.

And so, as you inch your way westward and eastward no matter which side of the street you cover, you can't go far without touching fascinating history. Some of it such as the Tavern of the Golden Ball is being expertly "liberated" and "preserved" at great outlays of energy, talent, time and substance. Other Weston history likewise has been similarly restored at the Isaac Fiske Law Office and in private homes by their owners. Still untold are the full stories of the Sibley Mills at Stony Brook and many of the other early industries of our now "residential" town.

H. G. T.

Son of the Burgoyne Elm just a seed in 1965.

Twin buttonwoods opposite Burgoyne Elm, Old Post Road, Weston.

Program Committee's Next Presentation November 30th

Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, chairman of the program committee, announces that Mrs. Elizabeth P. Hammond will give us her fascinating illustrated lecture *"Touring New England Graveyards"* on Tuesday evening, November 30th in the Ball Room of the Josiah Smith Tavern at 8 o'clock. For the past five years Mrs. Hammond has been a member of the teaching staff at the Massachusetts Audobon Society where she has conducted popular morning and evening classes on "Preserving Nature's Bounties".

Puritan Folk Art as revealed from the rubbing of early gravestones has long been a hobby of our guest speaker. Those who have met and heard her are loud in their praises of her vivacious charm and absorbing presentation. We hope to have an overflow audience to greet her. Members are urged to bring prospective members as their guests.

The programs we have enjoyed over the past eight years have all been remarkably worthwhile. In that period we have had four program chairmen, Mrs. John W. Scott, Mrs. Boardman Bump, Mrs. Richard Albrecht, and now Mrs. Dwinnell. With real appreciation we recall speakers and events as follows beginning with our first charter dinner in April 1964:

Gilbert Beane: "What Heights An Historical Society Can Reach"

Stephen T. Riley: "The Oldest Historical Society in America"

Roland Wells Robbins: "Pick 'n Shovel Historian"

Dr. R. E. Pike: "Early Vermont Lumbering"

Brenton H. Dickson: "The Middlesex Canal" and "Early Transportation in New England"

Jean Goreley: "The Vineyard and the Tories"

Roger S. Webb: "Preserving our Architectural Heritage"

Margaret H. Floyd: "Lower Newton Street — An Architectural Perspective"

Col. E. P. Hamilton: "Early Mills Along The Charles"

Arthur F. Schrader: "New England in Song and Story"

W. R. Dewey, Jr.: "Weston's Oldest Houses"

Francis J. Koppeis: "America's Oldest Inn"

David B. Little: "America's First Centennial"

Joseph Hudak: "Early Gardens of America"

Edward Rowe Snow: "Ramblings and Reminiscences"

In addition we have had a Dinner Meeting and tour of the Early American Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, a colored film, "Music of Old Williamsburg," a Panel on School History Teaching and our Genealogy Seminar; also our own "Around the Cracker Barrel" first in 1965 and then enlarged and repeated in 1969, as well as trips to the Kendall Marine Museum at Sharon and the Textile Museum at North Andover.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5.00 per family

Gift Memberships are suggested

Life Memberships ($200) are also available

Contributions to the Society are always welcome

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and sent to P.O. Box 343, Weston 02193

President
Mr. Harold G. Travis
899-4515

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The Weston Historical Society
Bulletin
OCTOBER 1971

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

JANUARY 1972, VOL. VIII, NO. 2

THE GARFIELD HOUSE

Built about 1710 by Thomas Garfield on 120 acres his father, Captain Benjamin Garfield, had bought March 13, 1702-03 from Simon Tainter. It passed successively to Thomas Garfield, Jr., Rebecca Garfield (Mrs. David) Fiske, her son Elijah Fiske, and from him to his children who sold it about 1880 to Richard Barrett, ending 17 decades of Garfield ownership.

The house stood "at the end of a grass-grown lane about forty rods" from what is now Weston Road, Lincoln, less than a mile north of the present Route 117. The house was burned to the ground in 1944. On its site stands the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Keuper. A century-old lilac grove, visible to the left of the picture, still flourishes beside the old well on their side lawn. Those lilacs, the well, and the bricks in the chimney are the only relics of the old homestead that still remain.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 4: 8 p.m. — Isaac Fiske Law Office:
The Human and Timely Side of Early Court Decisions.
Call Mrs. Fulkerson, 899-5469 for reservations

Tuesday, January 11: 8 p.m. Josiah Smith Tavern (Jones House)

Mr. Brenton H. Dickson, the Society's Historian, and Mr. Edward W. Marshall, the Society's President, and Mrs. Marshall will take members and their guests on a scenic inland cruise through the small canals of Midland England, a trip they took during September. They will describe and illustrate with pictures their self-conducted canal boat tour of historic canals and ports of old England otherwise seldom visited.

Saturday, January 15 Bay State Historical League — open to all members:
9:15 a.m. — Old North Church, Boston
1:15 p.m. — Old South Meeting House
Contact Mrs. Thrall, 899-0723 for details

FOR YOUR COPY OF LAMSON'S HISTORY

Through the generosity of two charter members we are the owners of a limited number of neatly mimeographed copies of the

Index to Daniel S. Lamson, HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS 1630-1890

These are available to owners of Lamson's History at three dollars each. They comprise a forty-one page alphabetical listing of the significant persons, places, and events that are contained in this rare and authoritative book. This original INDEX was compiled in 1969 by Patricia A. McDonald, a history major at Regis College in Weston, as part of "The Weston History Project" directed by Dr. Vera Laska. As long as the supply lasts, we shall be happy to make them available.

Col. Lamson's original manuscript and notes are in the Society's possession at the Josiah Smith Tavern. The author died before their publication, but thanks to the benevolence and enterprise of Mr. Horace S. Sears, the great work was published in time for the Town's Bicentennial in 1913. Mr. Sears not only engaged a professional writer, Mr. William S. Kennedy of Belmont, to edit the notes into a dramatic story of Weston from the beginning, but also underwrote the expense of publication and distribution of one copy to each family residing in Weston at the time of the Town's Bicentennial. In the emergency and pressure of time, no index was included, but now, at long last, a gold mine of information becomes instantly available to the reader.

HIGH SPOTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

At the Society's eighth annual meeting on October 26th, the President called for a moment of silence in memory of four loyal members who had died since the last annual meeting,— ex vice president Charles P. Gorely, Jr., Mr. Albert Morse, Mr. Thruston Wright, and Miss Constance Burrage.

The Curator, Mrs. Fraser, acknowledged many generous gifts, the Historian, Brenton H. Dickson chose "Hearsay repeated often enough becomes fact" as his text to bring out that President Garfield had never been educated in the Northwest School on Concord Road, Mrs. William B. Floyd made some salient comments on the ongoing work of the Weston Historical Commission, and Mr. James B. Muldoon amused and enlightened members with descriptions of some politically and historically significant opinions of the Massachusetts Supreme Court in the early 1800's, pointing out their extraordinary similarity to many of today's issues.

In his eighth and final report, the President traced the many accomplishments of the Society since its establishment finally in 1963, and thanked the "literally hundreds of you for your encouragement, support, and hard, generous work." He urged that the Endowment Fund be raised from its present approximate sum of $4,000 to at least $10,000 through increased life memberships, bequests, and special contributions. He expressed the hope that recent appeals to the Metropolitan District Commission for the restoration of the historic Norsemen's Tower at Norumbega and to the Selectmen for restricted parking in front of historic monuments would bear fruit. On cooperation with schools and colleges he declared, "The chain of immortality depends for its durability upon the degree to which we communicate with those younger than ourselves."

Save The Date!

Charter Anniversary Dinner

April 20th, Senior High School

GARFIELD STORY DISPROVED AND A NEW MYSTERY POSED: TO WHOM DID NAHUM REFER?

James Abram Garfield, 20th president of the United States, had indeed many Weston connections and forbears, but we now know that, contrary to rumor so often repeated that in many quarters it was accepted as a fact, he never set foot on our soil. The first generation of his family was represented by Edward Garfield who, born in England in 1575, came over probably with Winthrop in 1630, and died in Watertown at the age of 97 on June 14, 1672. By coincidence the pioneer's son, Edward Jr., who likewise had been born in England, died on the same day as his father, having served as Selectman for several years. A son in the next generation, Captain Benjamin Garfield was born in Watertown in 1643, served twenty years as Selectman and died in 1717. His son, Lieutenant Thomas Garfield of the fourth generation, was born in Watertown on December 12, 1681, and married Mercy Bigelow, the daughter of Joshua Bigelow of Watertown on January 2, 1706-7. Their son, Thomas Garfield, President Garfield's great, great grandfather, was born in Weston in February 1713 and died January 3, 1774 on the Garfield place which for the previous twenty years had been, and still is, a part of Lincoln. Both he and his wife, Rebecca, whom he married in 1742 at her Lunenburg home, are buried in Lincoln's hill burying ground, their graves being marked by simple slabs of slate.

Their son Solomon Garfield, brother of Abram who fought at Concord Bridge, was born on the Garfield farm about a mile north of what is now Route 117 on Lincoln Road in 1743 when it was still part of Weston. He and his wife, the former Sarah Stimson of Sudbury, were the great grandparents of President Garfield and they moved to Westminster where Solomon had acquired some lots. About 1790 they moved again to Cherry Valley, Otsego, New York, taking with them Thomas Garfield who had been born in 1775. The latter married Asenath Hill of Sharon, New York (Schoharie County). Their son who was to sire a President thirty-one years later, was Abram Garfield, born December 28, 1799. It is interesting here to note that just as he was left fatherless when but two years old, so was he himself destined to die when his own son, James Abram Garfield, was still a mere infant. The latter was born on November 19, 1831, in Orange, Cuyahoga County, Ohio where his father was to die fifteen months later on March 3, 1833. Whereas nine generations before, their direct ancestor, Edward Garfield, was to live for ninety-seven years, it is interesting to note that the President died before his 50th birthday, his father at 33, and his grandfather at 26, all three living in the aggregate only nine years longer than Edward I.

Thus it is true as Hon. George F. Hoar wrote on Page 386 of the October 1881 American Antiquarian Society: "Six generations of his family lived in Middlesex and Worcester Counties from 1630 until after the Revolution. In the summer of 1880 the graves of his ancestors were discovered in the hill burying ground at Lincoln, and the house built and occupied by them. The President was much pleased with the discovery and several times during the spring, expressed quite eagerly his desire to visit the scenes of his family history. When Mrs. Garfield's illness compelled him to abandon a great portion of his scheme for visits in Connecticut and Massachusetts, he still maintained his purpose of making a pilgrimmage to Williams College, and to the old homes of the Garfields. As is well known he had set out upon this journey,— his first recreation from 13 weeks of herculean labor and care, when he was stricken down."

Concerning President Garfield's Ancestry at the Massachusetts Historical Society Meeting in Boston on October 13, 1881, Rev. Edward G. Porter quoted a letter that the future president had written from Washington D. C. on Jan. 8, 1872, citing ". . . my father moved into the wilds of Ohio before he was 20 and died when he was 33. I was but an infant . . ." Garfield in the same long letter remarked: "It seems to make the conclusion very strong that the Garfields themselves were from Weston . . ." On a later page Rev. Porter quotes a letter from Garfield on House of Representatives Washington, D. C. stationery dated Feb. 7, 1880 to E. I. Garfield at East Lexington, Massachusetts asking for details of Watertown and vicinity. Finally he quotes a letter from the Executive Mansion, Washington July 1, 1881 signed for the President by J. Stanley Brown, Private Secretary, and addressed to E. I. Garfield at 27 Franklin Street, Boston. It was probably one of the very last written or dictated by the President, for it was written late Friday evening, July 1, 1881 and postmarked

"Washington July 2 1 P. M.," 3 hours after the President's assassination. It read in part: "The pressure upon the President's time prevents him from sending a personal response to your note of the 30th ultimo. He directs me therefore . . . to say that it is impossible at this time for him to tell whether he will be able to spare the time to make the trip you propose. He expects to be at Concord for a short time and if it is possible for him to go to Watertown he will be glad to do so, but can't tell certainly till he reaches Concord."

Rev. Porter concludes: "It is well known that the President was anticipating great pleasure in his projected trip to New England upon which he had just started when he was stricken down by the hand of the assassin. It was his intention after visiting his Alma Mater at Williamstown and making a brief tour of the mountains, to fulfill a long-cherished desire of seeing the early homes and graves of his ancestors . . ."

How then, we wonder, could most of us so readily have believed that "In his boyhood for several years, James Garfield lived with his grandparents in the Garfield homestead on Lincoln Road; dinner pail in hand — there were two sessions in those days — he walked the distance over the rough road or short cut through the fields to little old Schoolhouse Number III in Weston." This quotation, taken from a book published in 1961, was based on the Weston Town Report of 1882 that, we now find, had been extracted incorrectly. Two very important little words had unfortunately been left out as we now shall see. Actually Nahum Smith's report on Schoolhouse #3, Northwest District, Miss Ida A. Gould, Teacher, had said: "In the coming years it may be that some of our ambitious boys may become men to whom the world will look up, and whom the world will delight to honor; what has been, may again be,— for out of the little North-West Schoolhouse, many years ago, went a poor boy who, before life's close, had attained to some of the highest honors in the land." The 1961 book quoted the above exactly but alas the words "some of" in the very last clause were missing.

Since our annual meeting on October 26 we have spent much time in verification of the above as a result of Brent Dickson's assertion that "Hearsay repeated becomes fact as witness the myth of President Garfield being educated in the Northwest School on Concord Road." The days spent in various libraries as we read biographies, records, genealogies, and papers were fascinating and rewarding. The dozens of personal calls to old residents of the town for at least a picture of that School that wasn't taken down until 1931 and whose foundation may still be viewed were pleasant but futile. The big mystery, "Of whom was Nahum speaking?" has whetted our zest to examine the school roster of the early and middle 1800's, but we learn to our dismay that no school records of that nature prior to 1908 are anymore in existence, having been destroyed by fire many years ago. As we go to press we are even looking over old assessors' lists of that period in the hope that perhaps we can hit upon the name of an historical figure "who before life's close, had attained to *some of* the highest honors in the land."

Won't all of you readers and members share the challenge with us? *To whom did Nahum Smith refer in his 1882 report?* The suspense is tantalizing to the true historian. Any clues or old school pictures of the early nineteenth century will be helpful. We hope that by digging into your shelves, albums, garrets, and even barns, you will turn up something of value.

Even Then Crime Didn't Pay

On May 2, 1898 Weston's three selectmen, Henry J. Jennison, Chairman, Francis Blake, and Nathan S. Fiske published the following:

$500 REWARD

will be paid by the Town of Weston to the person who will furnish information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the colored man who shot and robbed William Flitcroft in Weston, about 8:45 o'clock in the evening of

April 30, 1898

Among the archives of the Weston Police Department is a penny postcard mailed from Waltham four days later by James H. McKenna, Waltham's Police Chief, to Mr.

Jennison at his 811 Tremont Street, Boston office. Printed in bold type, it described the crime and denounced the suspect as follows:

WANTED FOR ROBBERY AND ATTEMPT TO MURDER

On Saturday, April 30th, 1898, about 8:45 P.M.,

William Flitcroft was held up and robbed on the tracks of the Fitchburg R.R. between the Kendal Green and Hastings stations, in Town of Weston, by a Negro who shot him through the stomach and he will probably die. He took a gold watch and a small sum of money from Flitcroft. The watch is gold hunting case, engine-turned to shield, gilt movement. No. 5474312, 11 jewels, stem wind, 10K case, No. 140055, plated chain, gilt movement, with Lord's Prayer engraved on one side and picture of the U.S. Mint Phila. on other. A Negro who answers description of the robber worked on a farm near where the shooting took place and left about one week ago and was seen around once since, he gave name of Harry Thompson, was about 38 years old, 5 ft. 6 in. tall, wore dark clothes and black derby hat and when talking, stutters. TOWN OF WESTON OFFERS $500 FOR ARREST AND CONVICTION.

Notify, James H. McKenna
Chief of Police, Waltham

or J. H. Whitney, Mass. Dist. Police,
Medford, Mass.

Was Harry Thompson, so dogmatically and emphatically condemned without hearing or trial, ever apprehended? We could uncover no evidence of it or of the reward money ever having been paid. Did poor 22-year-old William Flitcroft, employed at the Hook and Hastings Organ Factory, fulfill the chief's dire prophecy and die from his wounds? Search of our Town Records did not confirm it. Rather we found that almost sixteen months later, a daughter, Marion Elizabeth Flitcroft was born on August 26, 1899 to him and his wife, Lizzie Allen Thurston who, according to the same book, had married him after the shooting the year before. The little girl died at the age of 1½ on January 28th, 1901 and was buried in Lot 176, Linwood Cemetery.

While pursuing the above, quite a few aftermaths emerged to capture one's imagination and to inspire further speculation. For one thing, our William John Flitcroft, lucky though he had been in '98, actually did die on September 19th, 1903 in Wakefield through accidental drowning at the age of 27. His father, John A. Flitcroft, bought Lot 5, Plot G, in our Linwood Cemetery and brought his son's body home for burial. He himself died in Watertown at the age of 56 on January 7, 1909 and the mother, Annie Sharp Flitcroft, at age 67, followed him on April 9, 1920. Both were buried beside their son, William, and on April 28, 1950 his younger brother, George W. Flitcroft joined them at the age of 62.

In the course of our investigation, we bared another Flitcroft tragedy. William and George Flitcroft had a sister, Alice, who in 1903 earned $438 as a Weston schoolteacher. On January 9, 1904, less than four months after her brother's accidental death by drowning, she committed suicide in South Station, Boston during a period of despondency by shooting herself through brain and heart. Her age was listed as 25 years, 11 months and 23 days. Two fresh graves in the same Flitcroft lot were sad enough, but in less than three months the peaceful town of Weston was shaken by the tragic murder of Mabel Page who lived across the street from Schoolhouse No. 5 where Alice taught. At first her death was ruled suicidal but when the medical examiner arrived many hours later, he discovered further stab wounds that indicated murder. His announcement to that effect came ironically on April 1st! The murder gained national prominence. One Charles Tucker of Auburndale, on the basis of circumstantial evidence alone, was convicted and executed: a subject for another time. Historically we can reflect that three quarters of a century ago, it paid to be, like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion," for anyone who *"looked or acted"* guilty could expect no mercy, mollycoddling, or sympathy.

H.G.T.

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